

A history of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton / by R.M. Serjeantson.

Contributors

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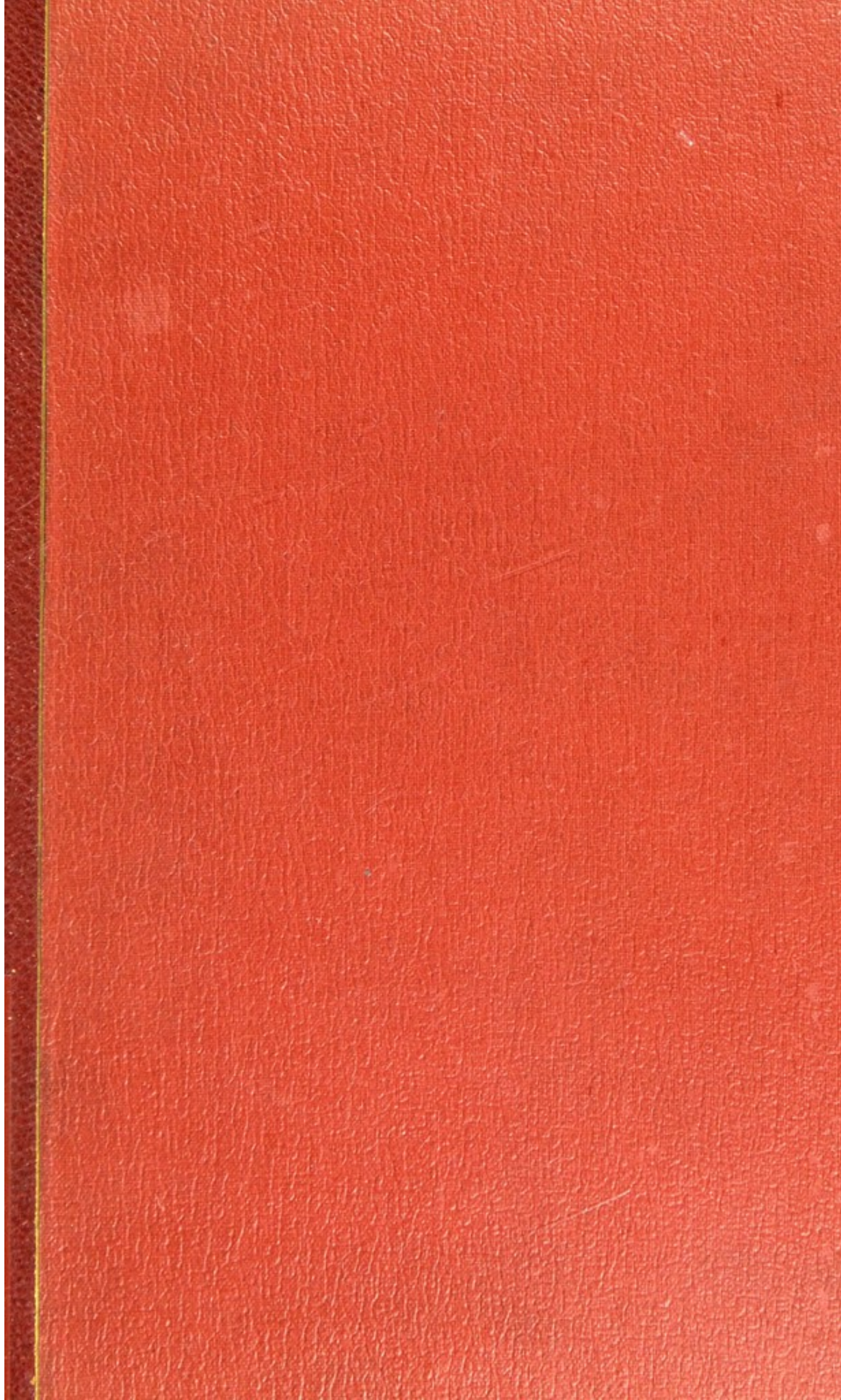
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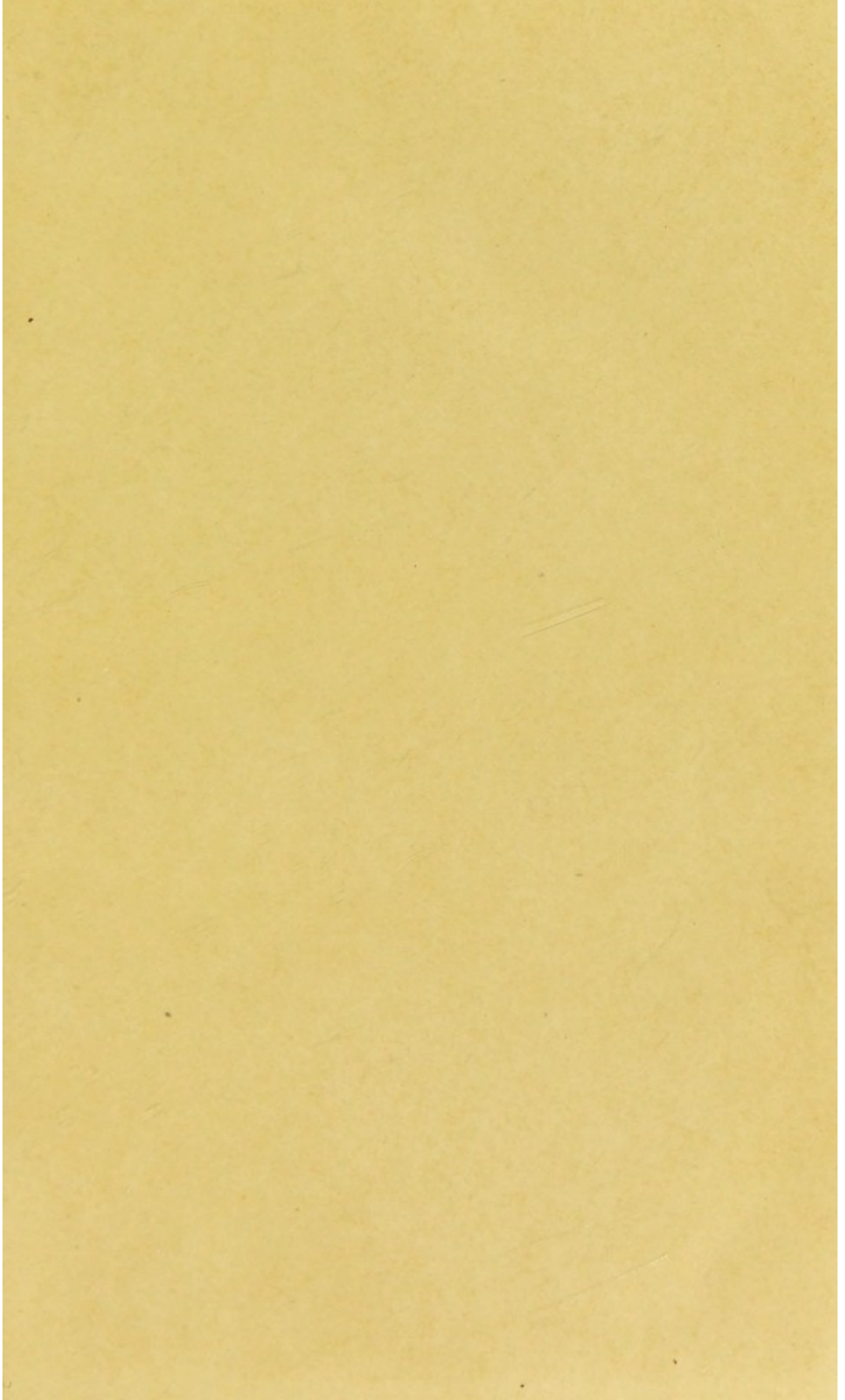
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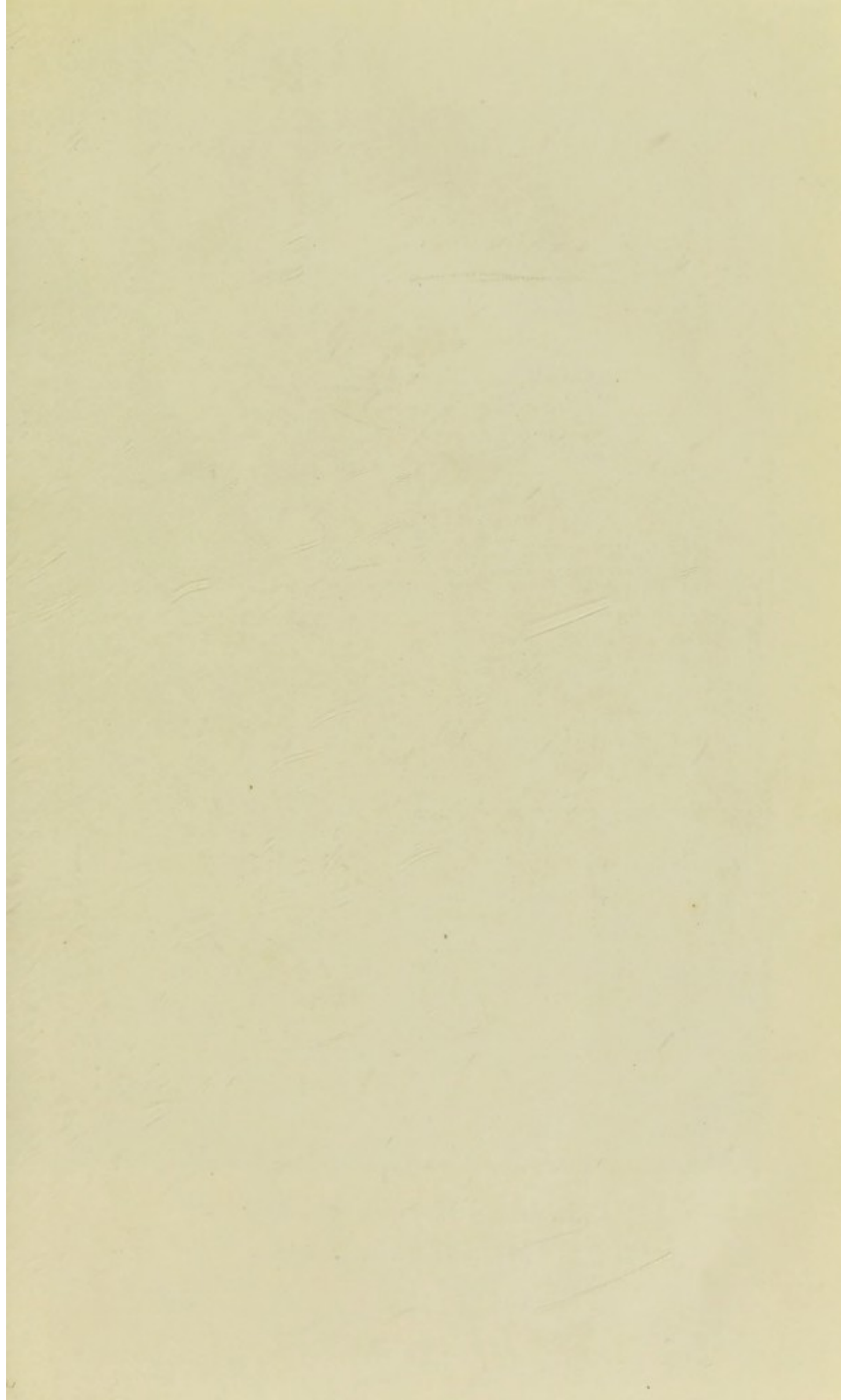


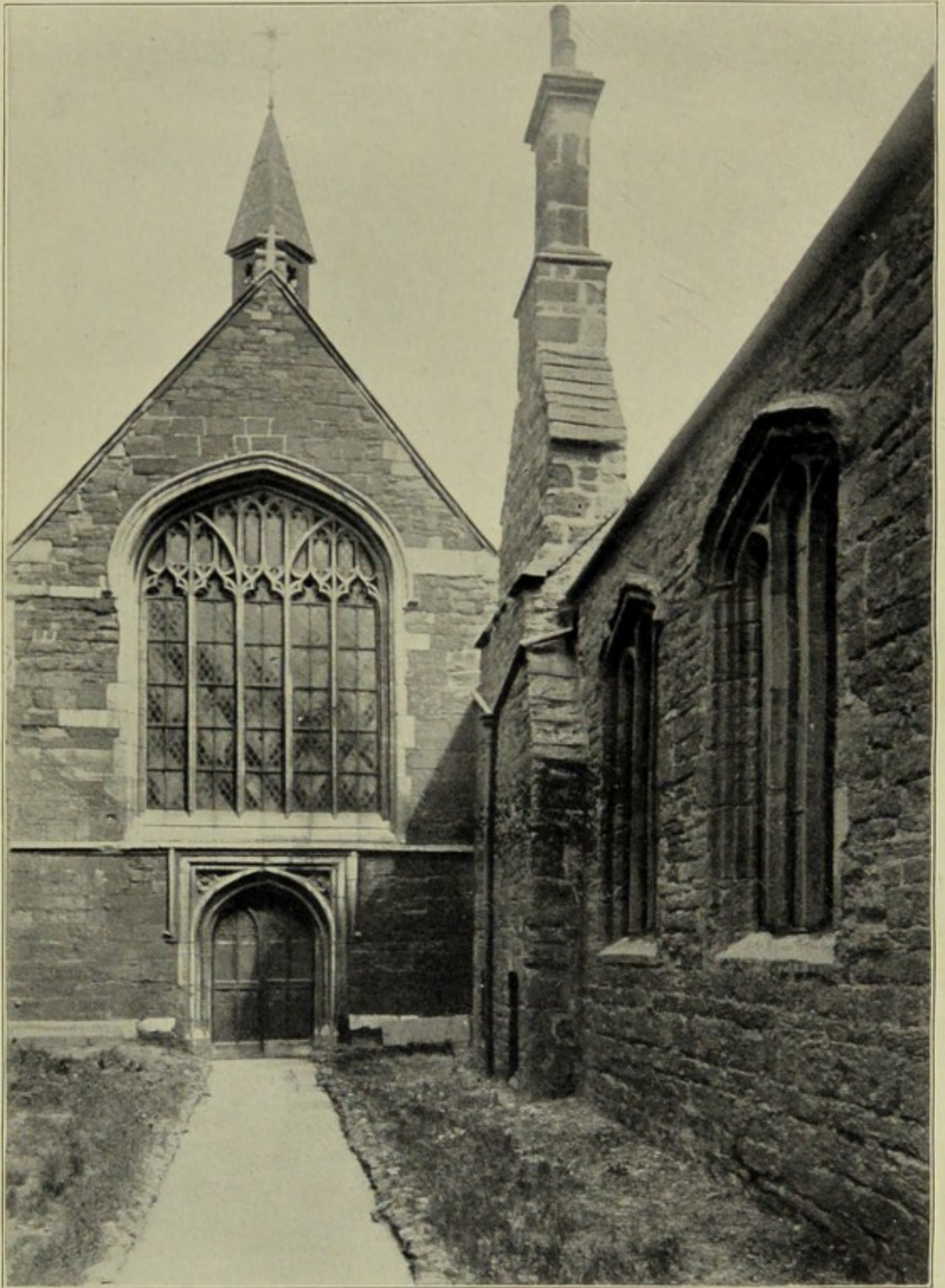
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St. John's Hospital, Northampton.

Photo by Mr. G. S. Garrett.

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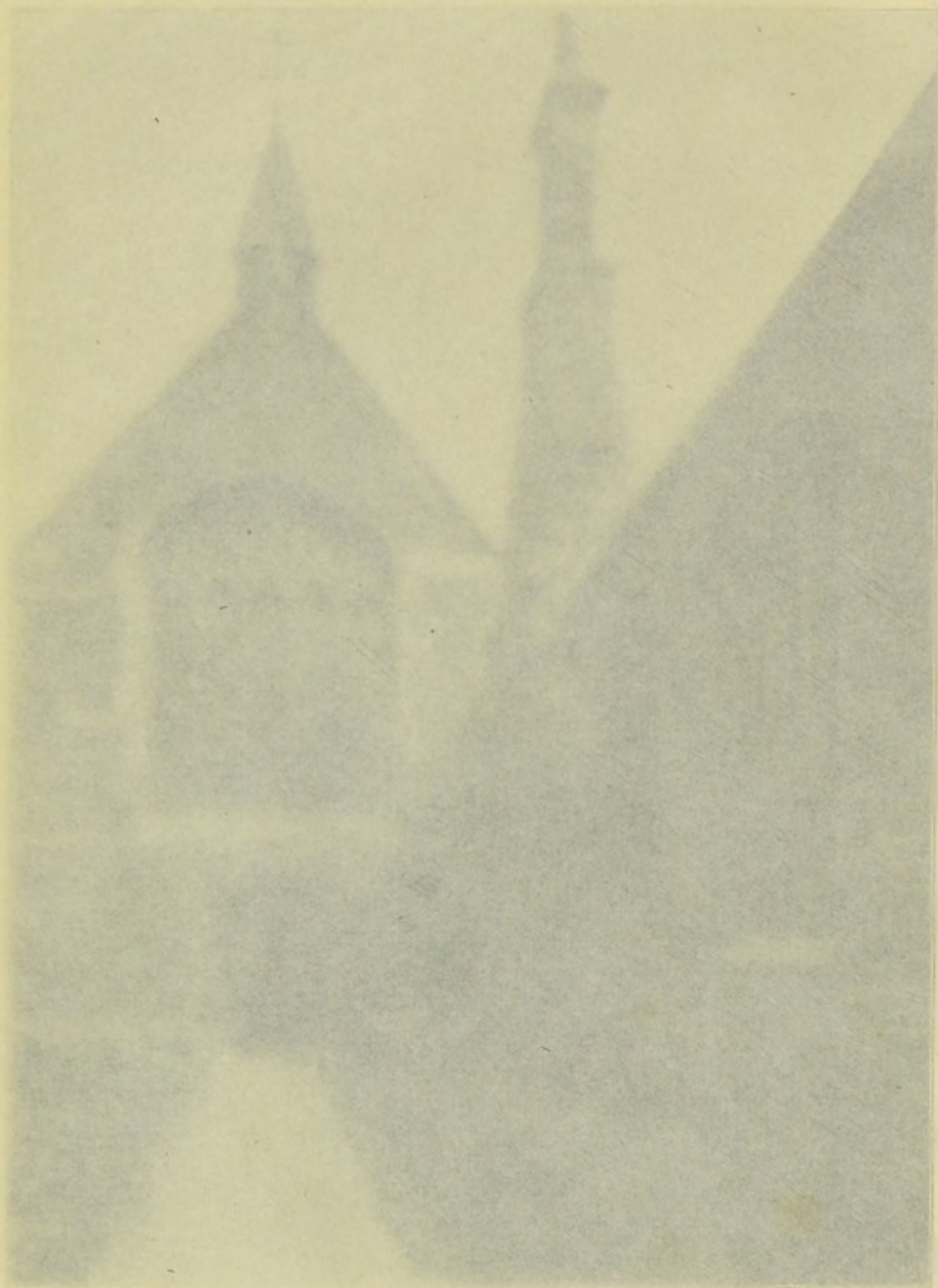
Author of
Historics of the Churches of All Saints, St. Peter's,
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Editor of the Victoria History of the County of Northampton.

NORTHAMPTON:—

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St. Andrew's Church, Northampton.

Viewed from the West.

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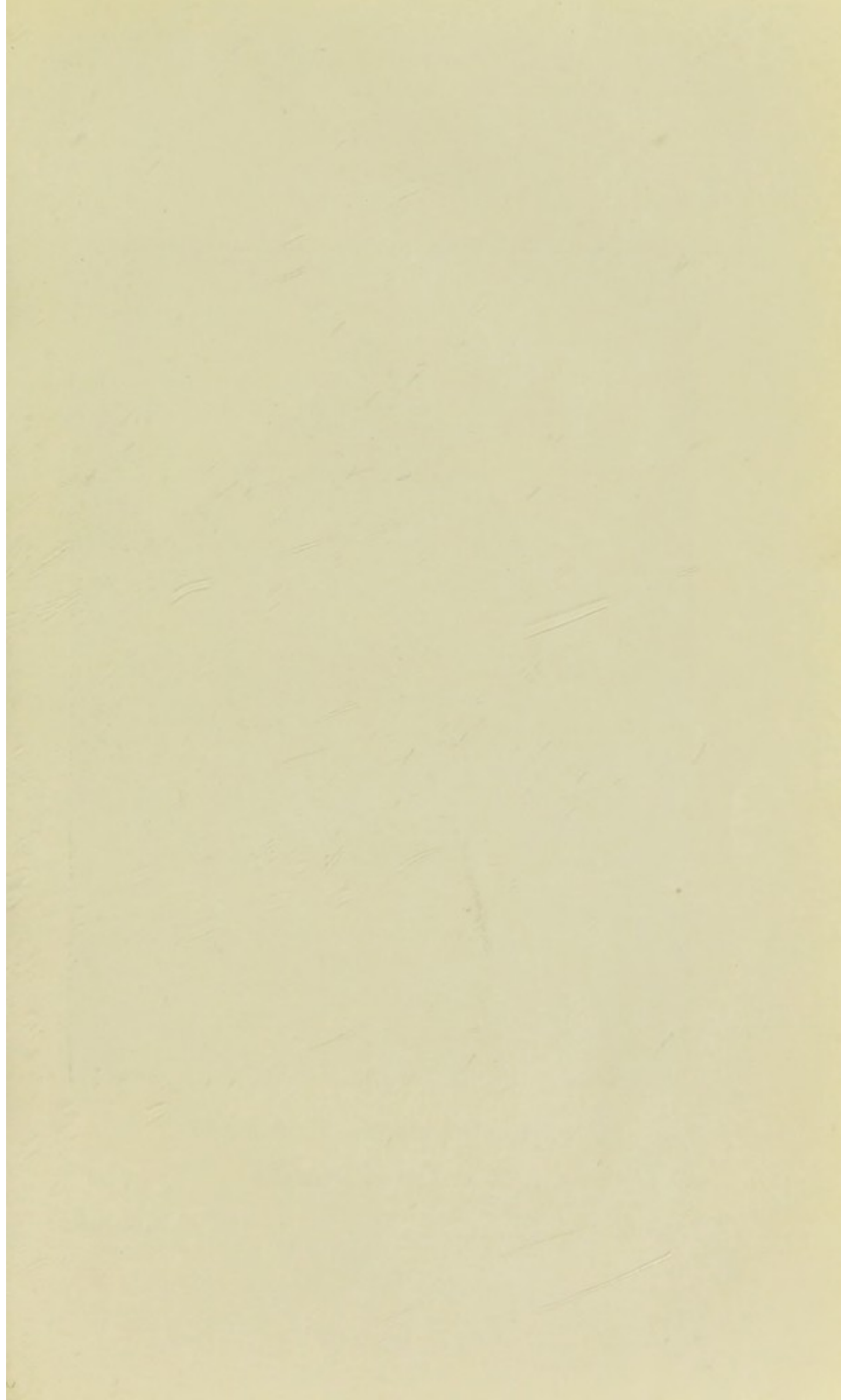


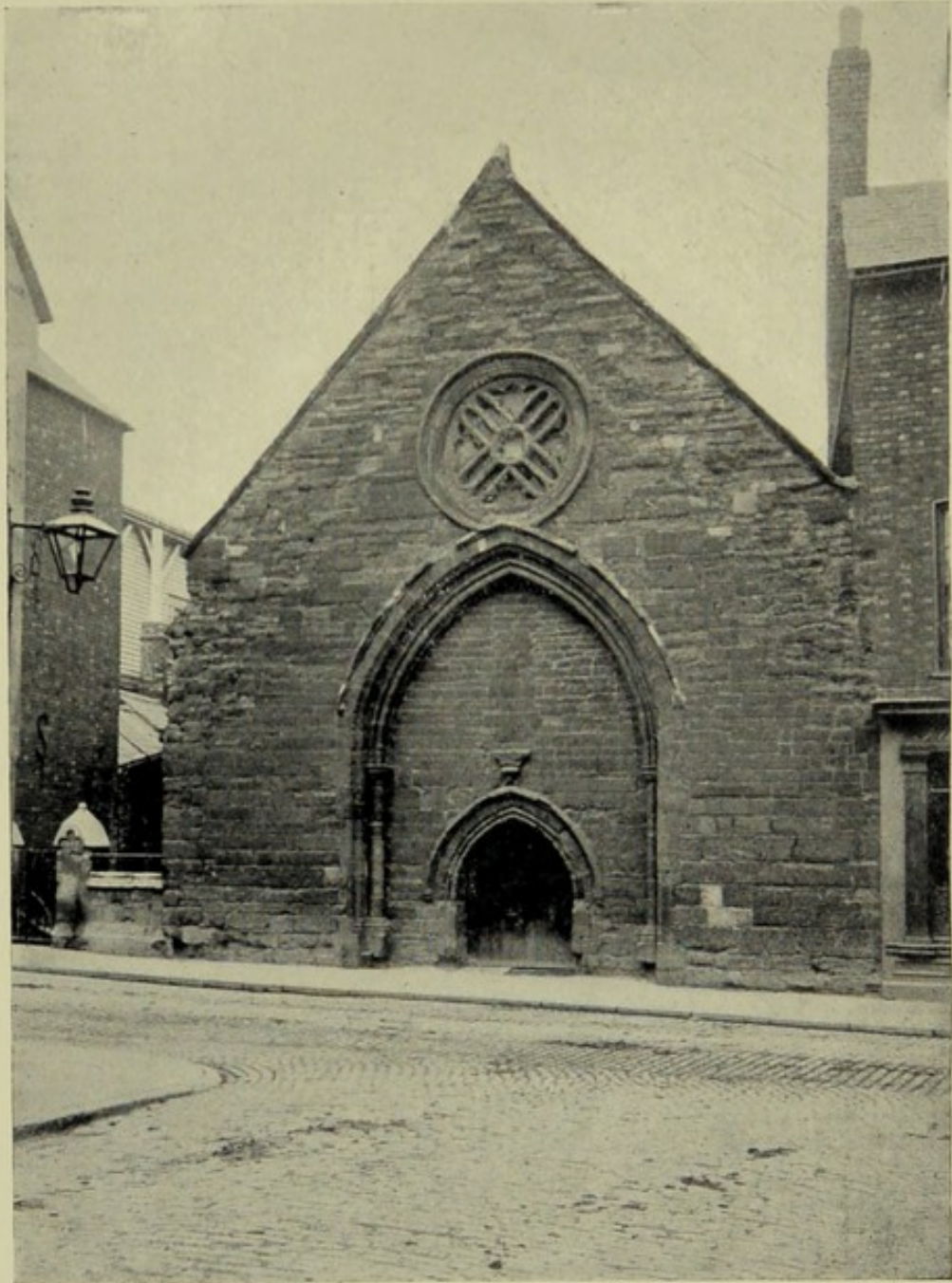
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St. John's Hospital, Northampton.

West End of Domicile.

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The writer gratefully acknowledges the help kindly given him by the Rev. Dr. Cox, F.S.A., Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A., Mr. James Young, the Rev. H. Isham Longden, and the Rev. E. A. Irons. He also expresses his thanks to the Rev. Canon Hughes and Mr. A. E. Phipps for kindly allowing him to see the papers in the Hospital Chest; to the Rev. Canon Ashmole for ready access to the Hospital buildings; and to Mr. G. C. Wells for reading through the proof sheets.

The Hospital of St. John, Northampton.

BY THE REV. R. M. SERJEANTSON, M.A., F.S.A.

HALF-WAY down Bridge Street stands an old and weather-beaten building which can hardly fail to attract the notice of passers-by. It is the Hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and has occupied this site for nearly eight centuries.

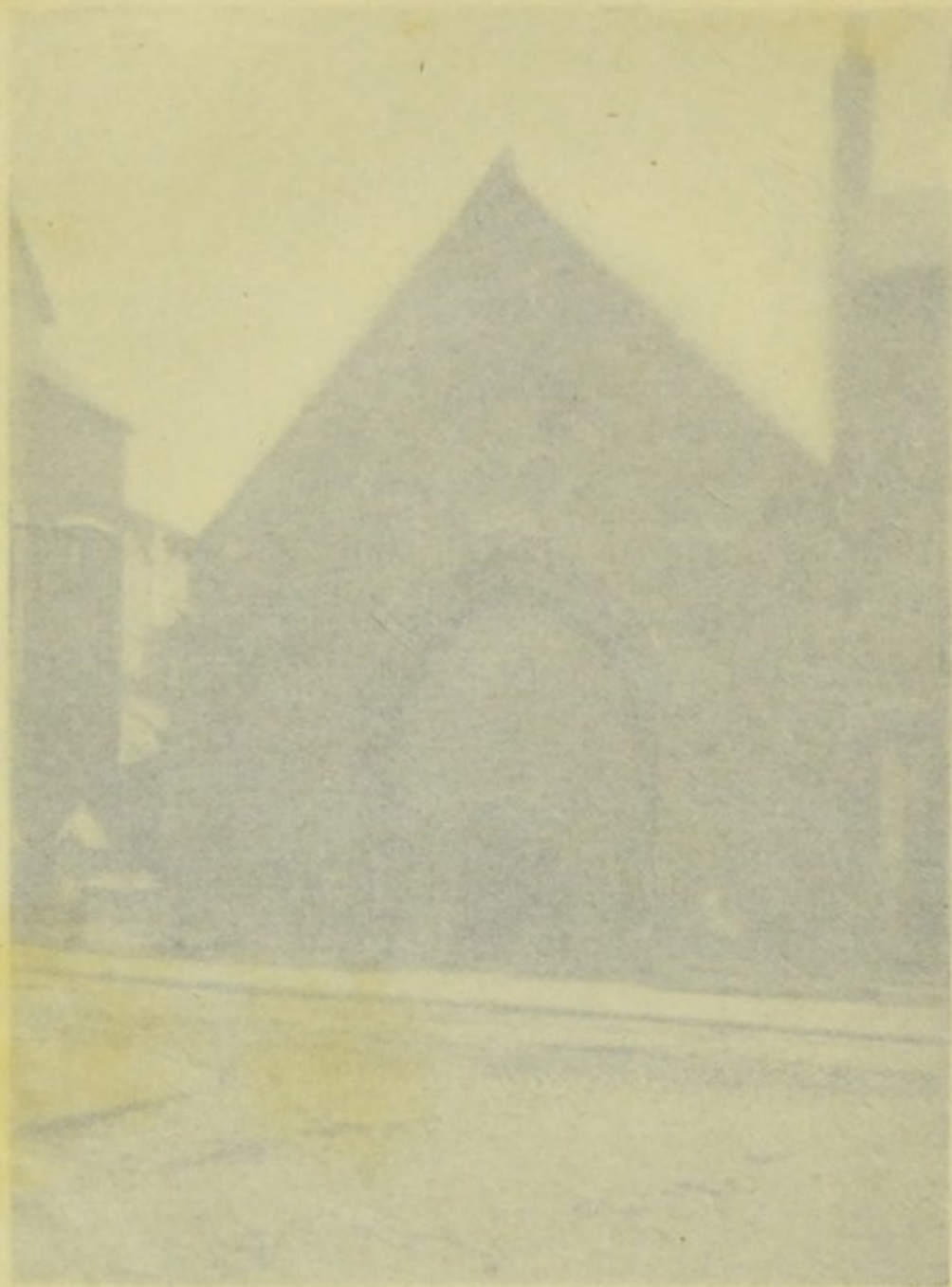
To archaeologists it is interesting for two reasons:—

- (1) It is the oldest building in the town, if we except the churches.
- (2) It is the only one remaining of the numerous religious houses for which Northampton was once so famous.

It is true that its old occupants have deserted it in favour of a more commodious home at Weston Favell, but there it still stands, an interesting relic of the past—carrying us back in thought to the days when the first Edward sat upon the English throne, and when Wallace and Bruce were striving to deliver Scotland from the English yoke.

The Hospital was founded in the reign of King Stephen, by Wm. de St. Clere, Archdeacon of Northampton, probably in the year 1138. We arrive at this date from an inquisition taken in 1327, in which the house was said to have been founded "189 years before the taking of the said inquisition." (1).

(1) This Inquisition is quoted by Bridges (whose notes were collected in 1720), but it is not now to be found at the Public Record Office. (See Bridges' *Northamptonshire*, I, 456). The Inquisition gives the name of the founder as *Walter*, but there was no archdeacon of that name at that date. It is evidently a mistake for Wm., which is the name given in all the other early documents. Leland (writing in 1536) says:—"S. John's Hospitale was originally founded by one William Saincte Clere, Archidiacon of Northampton, and brother to one of the Simons Saincteclere's as sun of Saincte John's name them; but as I have redde alway they were called Saincte Liz and not S. Clere." (Leland's *Itinerary*, I, 10). Leland is here in error. There is no record of any St. Liz (*Senlis*) having held the office of Archdeacon of Northampton.



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Very little is known about the founder. In 1144, he is mentioned in "*Swaffham*" (the famous Peterborough Chronicle) as one of the witnesses to the settlement of a long-standing dispute between Martin, Abbot of Peterborough (1133—1155), and Robert Fitz Amis and Richard, his brother. (2)

A year or two later a charter (undated) of Wm. Ostricer, granting lands to St. James' Abbey, is addressed to Robert, Bishop of Lincoln (1147—1167), and *William, Archdeacon of Northampton*. (3)

The Archdeacon died in 1168, as we learn from another Peterborough Chronicle. No details of his death are given; simply the bare fact "*1168, Obiit Willelmus Archidiaconus Northamtoniensis*." (4)

Before entering upon the history of the Hospital of St. John, it may perhaps be well to mention that the term "Hospital" in mediæval days meant something very different from what it does to day. It is true that men sometimes resorted thither in the hope of being cured of some disease; but a hospital in early days was used for various other purposes.

The derivation of the word hospital from *hospes*, a guest, gives us perhaps the best definition of the word.

A hospital in early days was a *guest house*, and was often founded (like St. Thomas', Canterbury)—

"for the maintenance of poor pilgrims (5), and other infirm persons resorting thither to remain until they are healed of their infirmities. For the poor, for persons going to Rome, and for others coming to Canterbury, and needing shelter; and for lying-in women, and orphans."

A hospital was in short "A house of hospitality"—a way-side shelter for all comers. (6)

In the Northampton Hospital, as in most kindred institutions, the community consisted of a Master and a certain number of Brethren, whose duty it was to look after the sick, the pilgrims and other casual visitors in the Hospital.

These brethren were bound by the usual three-fold vow of obedience, poverty and chastity. Though not monks (as is sometimes erroneously imagined) they were regularly admitted and "professed."

(2) Swaffham, f. 129.

(3) This Charter was confirmed by Edward I. (Charter Rolls, 18 Edward I.)

(4) Cotton MS., Claudius A. 5, f. 24.

(5) Pilgrims were not allowed to stay for an unlimited time. At St. Thomas' Hospital, Canterbury, it was expressly stipulated that "poor pilgrims in good health shall be entertained *only for one night* that greater regard shall be had for the sick than for the well pilgrims."

(6) Miss R. M. Clay's *Mediæval Hospitals in England*, p. 1.



The Wayfarer's Dole, St. Cross Hospital, Winchester.

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A hospital in early days was a guest house, and was often founded (like St. Thomas' Hospital) for

"for the maintenance of poor pilgrims, the and other infirm persons resorting thither to be cured of their various ailments. For the poor, the persons of infirm persons, and for other persons, coming to Canterbury, and seeking shelter, and for other persons, and other persons."

A hospital was in those days a place of refuge, a way-side shelter for all comers. (6)

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(4) Collier MSS., Camden A. 8. 2. 14.

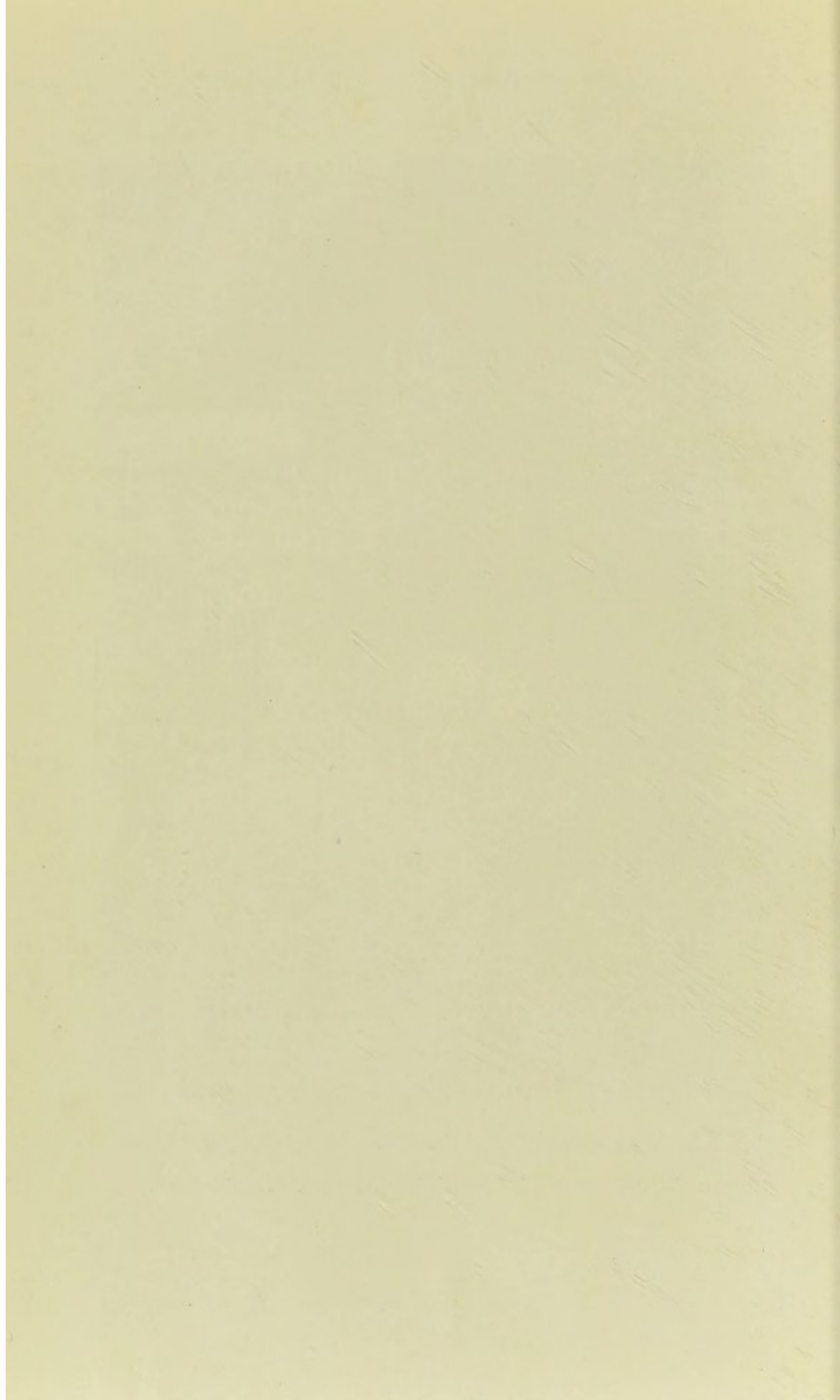
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At St. John's Hospital, Reading, the Brethren or Sisters were professed in the adjoining Church. "*Veni Creator* and certain prayers were said as the candidate knelt before the altar; after the sprinkling with holy water, he or she then received the habit or veil, a kiss of charity being bestowed by the rest of the household. A discourse followed upon the rules and benefits of the Society."

"The office for the admission of members to the staff of St. John's, Nottingham, is given in the *Records of the Borough*. One prayer, at the benediction of the religious habit, shows the spirit in which hospital officials were expected to enter upon their duties:—"Our Lord Jesus Christ, who did'st deign to put on the covering of our mortality, we beseech the immense abundance of Thy goodness, that Thou mayest so deign to bless this kind of vestment, which the holy fathers have decreed should be borne by those who renounce the world, as a token of innocence and humility, that this Thy servant, who shall [use it] may deserve to put on Thee, etc.'" As the brother changed his dress, the scripture was repeated concerning putting off the old man, and putting on the new in righteousness. The versicles 'Our help is in the name of the Lord,' 'Save Thy servant,' etc., were also used, together with prayers for the gift, for increase of virtue, for light and life." (7)

At St. John's, Northampton, it was expressly stipulated that no novice should be received without due examination in reading, or assurance that he was fit to sustain the burden of the choir. The habit worn by the Brethren in this Hospital was to be of one uniform colour, with a black cross upon it. Like all members of a religious order the Brethren were expected to worship together in the Chapel, eat together in the Refectory, and sleep together in the Dormitory.

When not engaged in worship the Brethren were not allowed to be idle. One Brother at St. John's, Northampton, was told off to look after the sick, another acted as Chamberlain, a third as Cellarer, while a fourth held the office of Proctor, or financial Agent of the Hospital.

"The Brethren of St. John's, Ely, were forbidden to play with dice, or to be present at such play, but were to give themselves to contemplation, and study of Scripture, one or two being deputed to wait upon the infirm.

Each lettered Brother of St. Leonard's, York, was directed to study at his desk in the Cloister two or three times a day." (7*)

A Brother guilty of any breach of the Hospital rules had to submit to "discipline" at the hands of the Master. The discipline usually consisted

(7) Miss Clay's *Medieval Hospitals*, 128 and 129.

(7*) *Ibid*, 152.

of flogging, fasting or fines. In extreme cases expulsion was the penalty inflicted.

At St. Mary's, Chichester, the following was one of the regulations:—

“If a Brother shall have a quarrel with a Brother with noise and riot, then let him fast for seven days, on Wednesdays and Fridays, on bread and water, and sit at the bottom of the table, and without a napkin. . . . If a Brother shall be found to have money or property concealed from the Warden, let the money be hung round his neck, and let him be well flogged, and do penance for thirty days as before.” (7†)

The Brothers of a Hospital might be Priests or Lay-brothers, but only a limited number were admitted. At St. John's, Nottingham, it was expressly ordered that “no more Brethren or Sisters shall be admitted than are necessary to serve the infirm, and to keep the goods of the house.” (7‡)

In the foregoing paragraphs we have attempted to give a short explanation of the meaning of the term Hospital in mediæval days, and some account of the regular members who composed its staff. We must now take up the story of our own Northampton Hospital.

The earliest document which definitely relates to the Hospital of St. John, in Northampton, is a charter granted by Henry II. to the Brethren of St. John's, confirming them in the possession of their lands and property.

Translated into English it reads as follows:—

“Henry, King of England, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Count of Anjou, to the Bishop of Lincoln, and all barons, justiciars, sheriffs, ministers, and all his faithful subjects of Northamptonshire (*Norhantscire*) greeting. Know all that I have granted and confirmed to the Brethren of the Hospital of St. John, of Northampton, whatever they have reasonably and justly acquired, and whatever they shall justly and reasonably acquire in gifts, acquisitions (*accatis*) and alms. Wherefore I will and firmly command that they hold and enjoy all the aforesaid possessions, well, peacefully, freely and quietly within and without the borough, in wood and in plain (8) (*planum*), in highways and in byways, in waters and mills and in all places, together with all liberties, free customs, lands, etc., and that which pertains to them; and I forbid any one hereafter to do them injury or wrong.

(7†) Miss Clay's *Mediæval Hospitals*, 139.

(7‡) *Ibid.*, 143.

(8) *Planum*—land fit for cultivation as opposed to woodland.

Witnesses Thomas the Chancellor, Henry of Essex the Constable, and Joscelyne de Baillol, at Mindestud in the Forest."

This charter is undated, but we can easily arrive at an approximate date from the name of one of the witnesses. Thomas the Chancellor (9) was the famous Becket who resigned the Chancellorship in 1162, on his appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury. The charter, therefore, must have been granted sometime between 1154 (the date of Henry's accession) and 1162 (the date of Becket's resignation of the Chancellorship). (10)

There is also another interesting charter of about this date granted either by the second or third of the Earls of Northampton of the de Senlis family.

By this document Simon, Earl of Northampton, confirms in frank almain all the grants made by his father, Earl Simon, to the Hospital of St. John in Northampton, viz., a thrave (11) of corn yearly from every demesne plough of his in Northamptonshire, half *de weragio* (12), and half *de tremisio* (13); nine virgates of land in Rothersthorpe which Robert Grimb' granted to them in alms, quit of all customs, and services; all the fee and tenure which Robert the Palmer held of Robert Grimbo, and which the latter granted to them in alms, with the service of Robert the Palmer and his heirs; 20/- yearly from a rent in the meadow of Eastcroft, and the place where stands the chapel St. Mary Magdalen, with all the land of Gildhalle, and the men dwelling on it, quit of all pleas, aids, gelds and customs; and the house of Hugh de Francia. (14)

- (9) The date of Becket's appointment to the Chancellorship is uncertain. Spellman gives the date as 1154, and Dugdale as 1157. The earlier date is probably correct.
- (10) The actual charter has long since disappeared. Even in 1307 it was old and dilapidated, and the seal attached to it was broken. Edward I., therefore, at the request of the brethren, caused it to be copied word for word (*de verbo ad verbum*) on to the Patent Rolls of his own day, and granted to the brethren a new confirmatory charter. This is dated at Lanercost, 28th January, 1306—7.
- (11) A thrave of corn means 24 sheaves. The Hospital of St. Nicholas, Carlisle, received a thrave of corn from every carucate of land in Cumberland; the great Hospital of St. Leonard, in York, collected a thrave from every plough working in Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Yorkshire; and the lands of the Durham Bishopric contributed "thraives of St. Giles'" to Kepier Hospital, near Durham. (Miss Clay's *Mediaeval Hospitals*, 184—5).
- (12) Weragium, horse and cattle fodder, vetches, clover, etc.
- (13) Tremesium, spring sown corn, barley, oats.
- (14) The original charter has disappeared, but it was confirmed by Henry IV., in 1404, and was entered on the Patent Rolls of that year. (Patent Roll, 5 Henry IV., part 2, M. 33). The Witnesses were Robert Grimb', Hugh Grimb', Richard de Oxendon, Hugh Gobion Robert son of Sewin, Wm. de Buketon, Henry son of Tiard, Ansketill Selarius.

For half a century after this we know nothing of the history of the Hospital, but in the 6th year of King John (1204), on Wednesday after the Feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist (August 29th), Warner, "Prior of the Hospital of St. John, Northampton," purchased from Philip, son of Wm. de Piddington, the advowson of the church of Piddington. (15)

In the same year (or towards the close of 1203) the same Prior, or Master, acquired from A. Abbot, of Bittlesden, certain lands in Charwelton formerly held by Wm. Pedefer. (16)

Some ten years later, we have a letter from Falkes de Breaute, Constable of Northampton Castle, to Hubert de Burgh, the Justiciar, stating that a number of poor begging alms at the Hospital of St. John, at Northampton, had been killed by the press of those entering; and several had been wounded and killed by the blows of the Vergers. He sends Wm. Tilly, Mayor of Northampton, to explain matters, and begs to be informed what ought to be done.

The actual letter is still preserved at the Public Record Office and reads as follows:—

"To his dearest lord and friend, Lord Hubert de Burgh, Justiciar of all England, Falkes de Breautt sends greeting and love. I beg to inform you that on St. John the Baptist's Day at the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, a certain accident (*infortunum*) happened—to wit that when Christ's poor were gathered together at the said Hospital for the receiving of alms, at the entrance to a certain gate a considerable number of the said poor people were thrown down by the rush of those entering, and crushed to death (*per pressuram extincti sunt*); and many others were wounded and slain by the blows of the Vergers (*Virgatorum*). To explain which more fully I am sending to you Wm. Tilly, Mayor of Northampton, and I beg you to consider the matter carefully and to signify to me by your letters what you think ought to be done in the matter. Farewell. And as I have not my seal with me I have sealed this letter with my private seal (*privato sigillo*)." (17)

From this letter we learn that at St. John's, Northampton, as at so many other mediæval hospitals, doles of food or money were distributed on certain days among the poor at the Hospital gates. The practice was a very common one.

(15) Feet of Fines, 6 John, Case 171, File 11, No. 62.

(16) Harleian Charters, 84 D. 18. This charter is dated in the first year of Bishop Wm. of Blois (1203—1206). Among the witnesses was Wm., Clerk of the Hospital of St. John.

(17) Ancient Correspondence, Vol. I., No. 66. (Public Record Office). This letter must have been written sometime between the years 1215 when Hubert de Burgh became Justiciar, and 1224 when Falkes de Breaute was banished from England.

At St. Mark's, Bristol, 45 lbs. of bread (made of wheat, barley and beans) was given away daily to a hundred applicants; and the resident brethren, "each carrying a knife, to cut bread for the sick and impotent," ministered to them for two or three hours each day. (18)

At St. Giles', Norwich, 180 persons received a portion of bread and cheese, and three eggs apiece on Lady Day; while at Lynn Hospital every leper, who applied for help on Maunday Thursday, received a farthing and a herring. (19)

At St. John's, Northampton, and in most other instances, this system of doles has long since fallen into abeyance, but all visitors to Winchester will recall the famous "wayfarer's dole" at the Hospital of St. Cross,—which is probably the only survival of the former indiscriminate charity of mediæval days.

In 1221, a dispute arose between the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, and the Rector of Rothersthorpe, with regard to the tithes payable on certain lands held by the former in Rothersthorpe. The matter was referred to the Pope, who deputed Simon, Abbot of Thame, and Thomas, Abbot of Nottley, to try the case. After full enquiry the Commissioners decided that the Master and Brethren of the Hospital should pay to the Rector of Rothersthorpe and his successors 4/- per annum for tithes of hay, etc., in the town of Thorpe; and a further 4/- for all lesser tithes (*omnium minutarum decimarum*). (20)

Three years later we get the name of another early Master of St. John's, a certain Brother Thomas, who in the Octave of St. Lucy (December 13th) 1223, purchased in the name of the Hospital, two virgates of land in Gayton from Henry de Gayton. (21)

It was this Thomas, who, in 1226, received the Franciscan pioneers, Richard of Ingworth and Richard of Devon, into the Hospital, until they obtained a house of their own (22); and doubtless many another weary pilgrim found a temporary shelter within the hospitable walls of this religious house.

Definite facts with regard to the Hospital in these early days are, however, very scanty, and it is only by casual references to it in the Public Records that we know of its existence.

(18) Miss Clay's *Mediæval Hospitals of England*, p. 170.

(19) *Ibid.*, p. 171.

(20) Cartularly of St. James, Northampton. Liber E. 5; Lansd. MS. 1025, f. 239.

(21) Feet of Fines. 8 Henry III., Case 172, File 18, No. 99.

(22) Eccleston's *De adventu minorum*, 10.

In 1231—2 (March 11th), Henry III. granted permission to the Master of St. John's to enclose his wood of Wulfeye with a ditch and hedge (*haya*). It was stipulated, however, that provision should be made whereby the king's deer (*fera*) might have the free ingress and egress. (23).

The same Master (or "Prior") on Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin (July 20th), 1232, granted various lands to a certain Henry Culling (24), and in the following week Prior Thomas purchased, for the Hospital, from Robert le Poher, and Oliva (his wife), half a carucate of land in Slipton. (25)

Two years later (1234) we learn from an entry in the Close Rolls that the Hospital was engaged in a lawsuit with Henry de Stowe, with regard to a virgate of land in Kislingbury (*Kiselingebir'*). (26)

In 1239 (November 11th) a fine was levied between John Malesoures and Richard, Master of St. John's Hospital, of 40/- rent in Irkesham. (27)

In 1266, the brethren were anxious to extend their premises, and applied to the king for permission to enclose a lane in Northampton, named "Crakebolle Strete," which lay between their church and grange.

The king accordingly, on January 12th, sent a writ to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town, ordering them to summon a jury who were well acquainted with the facts, and to make enquiry as to whether it would be to the damage or hurt of the town, if he granted the petition. The jurors answer that it will not be to the hurt of any one if permission is granted, provided that the brethren make a new street between the house of Robert de Ardern, and that of Isabel Dod, opposite St. John's Street (*vicum*), so that those dwelling in the said lane (*venella*) may have free ingress and egress to the market. (28)

King Henry accordingly, on January 18th, granted the petition of the brethren, on the condition above-mentioned. (29)

Perhaps the brethren neglected to make the new street, for at an enquiry as to encroachments held early in the next reign (1274) the jurors presented "that the Master of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton has enclosed for eight years past and more, a certain king's highway (*Viam*

(23) Close Roll, 16 Henry III., M. 14.

(24) Feet of Fines. Case 172, file 25, No. 261.

(25) *Ibid.* Case 172, file 25, No. 273.

(26) Close Roll, 18 Henry III., M. 30 dorse.

(27) Feet of Fines. Case 173, File 30, No. 82.

(28) *Inquisitio ad quod damnum.* File 2, No. 25 (50 Henry III).

(29) Patent Roll, 50 Henry III., M. 34.

Regiam) in the town of Northampton, which is called Krakebollestrete, by what warrant they know not, to the loss of the Lord King, and the Commonalty of Northampton, of half a mark and more." (30)

The jurors also presented, that "the Bishop of Lincoln, that now is, has appropriated to himself the privilege, which pertains to the commonalty (*communitas*) of the town of Northampton, of choosing and making a certain Master in the Hospital of St. John, in Northampton, whom the commonalty aforesaid was always wont to elect; and thus he has deprived the commonalty of the privilege aforesaid, by what warrant they know not." (31).

This claim on the part of the Northampton citizens of the right of appointing the Master of the St. John's Hospital, appears to have been absolutely unfounded. The Bishop of Lincoln, as patron, sometimes nominated the Master (and still does so), but more usually, in early days, he granted permission to the Brethren of the Hospital to choose their own Master.

In 1278, Pope Nicholas III. sent a mandate to the collectors of the Holy Land Tenth in England ordering them not to demand the said tenth from the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton, as his predecessor, Pope Gregory X. (1271—1276), had specially exempted all Lazar houses, Houses of God, and poor Hospitals from such payments. (32)

Six years later (March 9th, 1283—4), King Edward sent an order to the Sheriff of Northamptonshire bidding him not to hinder the Master and Brethren of St. John's from receiving a messuage and 40 acres of land in Tiffield, which Geoffrey son of Alan de Tiffield proposed to give them; and 40 acres of land in the same township which Ralph de Foxton proposed to give them in free alms; as the king had learnt (by Inquisition taken by the Sheriff) that it would not be to his damage if he granted the Master and Brethren permission to receive and retain the said premises. (33)

Shortly after this (1286) the Hospital authorities were again anxious to extend their premises, and applied for the king's permission to enclose an open space adjoining their cemetery. An enquiry was accordingly held at Northampton on Wednesday next after the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) by sworn jurors. The jurors stated

(30) Hundred Rolls (Edward I.) II., 3.

(31) Hundred Rolls (Edward I.) II., 2.

(32) Calendar of Papal Registers I., 456.

(33) Close Roll, 12 Edward I., M. 8 dorse.

that it would not be to the detriment of the king or of any of his burgesses if the petition of the Brethren of the Hospital was granted ; on the contrary it would be to the advantage (*commoditatem et honorem*) of the men of Northampton, if the said place was enclosed. (34)

A year later a certain Osbert de Crowethorp proposed to grant a rent of 40/- in Northampton to the Hospital of St. John. The usual enquiry was held as to whether this could be done without prejudice to anyone. The jurors assembled on the morrow of St. John the Baptist (June 25th) (35), and as their report was favourable, the king eventually granted the necessary permission on May 5th, 1290. (36)

In 1291, the Master of the Hospital died, and on November 12th the Bishop of Lincoln granted "to the Brethren of the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, licence, on their petition, to elect a new Master, as their house is left wholly destitute of guidance by the death of Brother William, the last Master." (37)

Seven years later the same bishop (Oliver Sutton) confirmed (August 16th, 1298) a charter of Brother Richard de Helmedon, Master of St. John's Hospital, admitting William of Tolouse to the prayers, etc., of the house, and undertaking for himself and his successors to find and maintain two fit priests (one a brother of the house, the other a secular), to pray for the said William at the altar of the blessed Virgin in the Hospital church, where William shall rest when he is dead. While he lives, the two priests shall celebrate two masses daily, one of the Holy Ghost, and the other of blessed Mary. When he is dead the two masses shall thenceforward be celebrated for his soul, and those of his ancestors and successors, and all the faithful departed ; and *placebo* and *dirige* shall be said in the same church at suitable times. On the death or removal of one or both chaplains, their places shall be filled up by others. The endowments are in lands and tenements in the town and fields of Hertewell and Cortenhale, being worth ten marks by year, of the gift of the said William. Failure to maintain the services shall involve forfeiture by the Hospital, and the property shall then devolve to the legitimate heirs of the founder, for the maintenance and finding of the priests. (38)

(34) *Inq. ad quod damnum*. File 10, No. 13 (14 Edward I.)

(35) *Inq. ad quod damnum*. File 11, No. 9.

(36) Patent Roll, 18 Edward I., M. 31.

(37) Bishop Sutton's *Memoranda*, f. 47 d. (Lincoln).

(38) *Memoranda* of Bishop Sutton, f. 203 (Lincoln).

The charter itself is undated. The witnesses were Sir Wm. de Braden, Knight, John de Tyngewyk, Robert Mauntel, John de Morewell, Adam de Fortho, John de Hertwell, Wm. de Wutton, and others. On the same day the Bishop also confirmed a similar charter of Clemence, Prioress of Stodeleye, relating to a chantry founded by Wm. of Tolouse in the Priory Church, dated at Stodeleye, on the Feast of St. James (July 25th), 1298.

In the following year the king granted permission to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John to add to their property by acquiring from Wm. de Brampton 100/- yearly in lands and rents in Hertewellewyk, Quenton, Cortenale and Pydington (March 31st, 1299). (39)

About the same time they acquired (without the king's permission) a rent of twopence a year from lands in Tiffield. As this was contrary to the statute of Mortmain, the lands were seized by the royal escheator in the king's name. (40)

Six years later King Edward (in return for 60/- paid into the Hanaper) granted to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, an "assart" in Horton within the metes of the Forest of Salcey (enclosed according to the Assize of that Forest), containing 16 acres and a rood of land. The Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer fixed the annual rent at 8/-. The grant was not made till an Inquisition had been held by Hugh le Despencer (Justice of the Forests on this side Trent), at which it was proved that the king, without prejudice to anyone, could so grant the said assart, which Beatrice Balan, deceased, formerly held of the king for her life, by grant of Henry III. (41)

About this time the Master and Brethren of the Hospital became involved in serious difficulties; and they were eventually all excommunicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and thrown into prison by the king's officers (November, 1305).

The exact nature of their offence is not stated, and the archbishop's register contains no record of the transaction. There is, however, an entry in the archbishop's register dated April 27th of this same year, which probably gives us the clue.

A dispute had arisen between the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, and the Rectors of Blisworth and Collingtree, and the matter was referred to the Dean of Arches. The Hospital authorities were evidently dissatisfied with his ruling, and appealed to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A day having been appointed for hearing the final judgment (*pronunciationem*) the parties appeared by their proctors. The Archbishop's Commissaries, "having duly invoked the Holy Spirit, and having diligently and carefully enquired into the case to the best of their ability, with the aid of skilful assessors"—upheld, ratified and approved the sentence of the said Dean of Arches as right and just. This sentence was

(39) Patent Roll, 27 Edward I., M. 32.

(40) Close Rolls, 27 Edward I., M. 7.

(41) Fine Roll, 33 Edward I., M. 11 and M. 13.

promulgated in the Church of Maghefield, April 27th, 1305, and was to be enforced by ecclesiastical censures. (42)

We can only assume that the Master and Brethren refused to give way, and had to suffer for their obstinacy.

This at least is certain, that in August or September the Archbishop solemnly excommunicated them, and as they still proved contumacious, handed them over at length to the secular arm. His writ to the king is still in existence, and is now preserved in the Public Record Office. It is dated October 24th, 1305, and informs the king that Richard de Helmden, Master of the Hospital, and seven of the Brethren (who are all mentioned by name) have been excommunicated for 40 days and more, and are still refractory. "And as the church has nothing further that she can do in this matter, we beseech your royal highness (*Regie celsitudini*) that for the more healthy repression of the rebellion of the said excommunicate persons, you will deign to exercise against them the aid of the secular arm (*brachii secularis*), so that that which ecclesiastical cognisance (*noscioni*) is well known to lack, may be supplied by the help of the king's majesty invoked by the church." (43)

An order was accordingly sent to the sheriff bidding him "to justice them by their bodies according to the law of England, until they should satisfy Holy Church for the wrong and injury that they had inflicted upon her." The sheriff obeyed, and threw them all into prison. The names of the delinquents were Richard de Helmdon, the Master; Nicholas de Brewode, John de Upton, John de Ravensthorp, Robert Russel, Robert de Pydington, Wm. de Thorp, and Philip de Tiffield, Brethren of the Hospital. They appear to have remained in prison for about three weeks, but on November 12th, 1305, the king sent an order to the sheriff to release them till April 28th, as the king now learns that they have appealed to the Papal See against the Archbishop's sentence, as an unjust one, and he does not wish that they should be prevented from prosecuting their appeal. (44)

On May 4th the sheriff was ordered to re-arrest them, as they had taken no steps to prosecute their appeal to Rome, and more than a year had elapsed since the appeal was first made. (45)

This evidently had the desired effect, for after undergoing two months' further imprisonment, they were released from prison in July, 1306, "as

(42) Lambeth MSS., 244, f. 72.

The commissaries were Master Wm. de Chadleshunte, R. de Worcester, and Richard de Heydon.

(43) Chancery significations of excommunication. File 7.

(44) Close Roll, 33 Edward I., M. 2 dorset.

(45) Close Roll, 34 Edward I., M. 12 dorset.

the king hears that they have now exhibited in Chancery Papal letters sued out by them for the prosecution of their appeal, and he does not wish that the said appeal should be hindered by their imprisonment." (46).

This is the end of the story so far as the public records are concerned. How the dispute was eventually settled it is impossible to say. It cannot however have lasted long, for in the following year (1307) the brethren were engaged in building their church, and were evidently high in favour with the Bishop.

On January 27th, 1307—8, he granted a special "indulgence" to all assisting or contributing towards the cost of the building. The injunction was directed to all Rectors and Vicars of churches, and begins as follows:—

"Grateful and acceptable is the service paid to the most High, when we are instant in works of piety which assuage and awaken the pity of the Saviour." When the brethren of St. John's Hospital, their proctors or accredited messengers (*veri nuncii*), come asking for the alms of the faithful towards the fabric of their church, which they have laudably begun, and towards the maintenance of the poor folk who throng together (*confluencium*) to the same Hospital, the parochial clergy are to admit them courteously, to set forth to the people once a year the indulgences granted to them with respect to this matter, preferring them to all other affairs, that of the fabric of the church of Lincoln excepted. They are to promote the abovesaid in their object by word and example, paying them all money collected for the said purposes. In order to stir the hearts of the faithful by the attractive (*allectivis*) rewards of indulgences, the bishop has granted a special indulgence (47) to benefactors, as specified elsewhere. His special desire for this Hospital is due to the fact that it is in his patronage. (48)

On the same day a supplementary mandate was issued, of which the following is an abstract:—

The bishop, being the more ardently zealous for the state of the Hospital inasmuch as it is in his own patronage, enjoins the clergy, on every Sunday and feast-day in their several churches during mass, when and as often as they are requested by the Master and Brethren, to warn in general all those who mischievously conceal or impare legacies bequeathed in the wills of dying persons, or alms assigned in their lifetime to necessary uses for the maintenance of the sick and poor in the Hospital, or who refuse to discover to the Master and

(46) Close Roll, 34 Edward I., M. 9 dorse.

(47) The indulgence probably lasted for 20 or 40 days.

(48) Dalderby's *Memoranda*, f. 105 dorse (Lincoln).

Brethren, what they know concerning the same, matters learned in private confession excepted (*articulo secreta confessionie excepto*), and to restore all such concealed goods to the Master and Brethren or their messengers, making payment within fifteen days of the warning, and to be careful to reveal what they know, with the above exception. If restitution is not made within the said term, defaulters are to be excommunicated in general in the places aforesaid, with ringing of bells and lighting of candles. (49)

Thus backed by the Bishop, the building of the Hospital church went on and prospered, and in 1310 it was evidently completed.

On February 3rd, 1310—11, the Bishop, who was then at Buckden, granted permission to the Master and Brethren of St. John's "to have four altars situate within the precincts (*septa*) of the Hospital, and *newly constructed*, dedicated by any Catholic Bishop." (50)

Bishop Dalderby died in 1320, but his successor, Henry Burghersh, was equally generous to the Hospital, and on October 12th, 1321, granted another indulgence (51) in its favour, almost identical with the previous one issued by Bishop Dalderby in 1307—8.

In 1322, an entry in the Close Rolls records that Richard de Helmdon, Master of the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, acknowledges that he owes John de Newland, parson of the church of Blisworth, the sum of 20 marks, to be levied in default of payment on his lands and chattels in the counties of Northampton and Buckingham. He died in the following year, and was succeeded in the Mastership by John de Upton.

Two years after Upton's accession to office the king sent an order to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital bidding them to receive into their Hospital a certain "William of the Halle" (who had long served the king and his father); and to provide him with necessaries in food, and clothing, so far as the goods of the Hospital sufficed for those dwelling there, and for him. The Brethren were further ordered to cause letters under the Hospital Seal to be made out specifying exactly what things he would receive in the Hospital for his maintenance. The king went on to remind them of the fact (which was not true in the case of St. John's Hospital) that the hospitals in the realm were founded by the king's progenitors, especially for the admission of poor and weak people, particularly those in the king's service who had become unable to work.

(49) Bishop Dalderby's *Memoranda*, f. 105 verso.

(50) Bishop Dalderby's *Memoranda*, f. 177.

(51) Bishop Burghersh's *Memoranda*, f. 39.

The servant now sent to them (Wm. of the Halle), was quite unable to work (*totaliter effectus est*), and the Brethren were ordered to send a written answer to the king as to what they had done in the matter. (52)

The Hospital at this time appears to have been heavily in debt, as is shewn by two entries in the Close Rolls.

On July 19th, 1325, John de Upton (Master of the Hospital of St. John) and two others acknowledge that they owe to Adam de Salesbury of London the large sum of £140, equal to £1,700 at the present value of money (53). Three weeks later (August 10th) the Master of St. John's acknowledges another debt of 24 marks, due to Solomon le Coffrer of Lincoln. (54)

In this same year a dispute seems to have arisen with regard to the admission of a certain Wm. de Piddington as a brother of the Hospital. The Master for some reason declined to admit him, and the Pope was at last induced to intervene on his behalf.

On April 27th, 1325, Pope John XXII. issued a Mandate to the Master and Brethren ordering them to receive as a fellow and brother (*in socium et fratrem*), Wm., son of Walter de Piddington, clerk, "who is desirous of serving the Lord together with those in the said Hospital, the sick and the poor thereof;" and bidding them to treat him "with unfeigned charity in the Lord."

The Master and Brethren apparently paid no attention to this Mandate, or at any rate neglected to carry it out, as the repeated pains (*labor iteratus*) of the said Wm. de Piddington made manifest. The Pope, therefore, wishing to encourage (*confovere*) the said Wm. de Piddington in his laudable purpose, charges the Bishop, if the facts are as reported, to admonish the Master and Brethren in his (the Pope's) behalf, and induce them to obey. If there is any reasonable cause to the contrary, the Bishop is to inform the Pope in writing. Bishop Burghersh accordingly, on November 3rd, 1325, sent an order to the Master and Brethren enjoining them to obey the Pope's injunction, or shew reasonable cause for their refusal, by the feast of St. Katharine (November 25th) following (55).

The injunction was evidently carried out, for in 1330 William de Piddington was Master of the Hospital. (56)

(52) Close Rolls, 18 Edward II., M. 12 dorse.

A similar order had been sent a few years previously (21 Feb. 1313—14), in favour of another of the King's servants—Ela Druel—who was to receive the allowance (*liberacione*) of a brother in that house. Close Roll, 7 Edward II., M. 10 dorse.

(53) Close Roll, 19 Edward II., M. 33 d.

(54) Close Roll, 19 Edward II., M. 30 d.

(55) Bishop Burghersh's *Memoranda*, f. 147 dorse.

(56) Patent Roll, 4 Edward III., Part I., M. 42.

Early in the reign of Edward III. an enquiry was held in Northampton with regard to recent encroachments. The jurors presented that the Master of St. John's Hospital and his predecessors for 25 years past had stopped up a lane between Crakebolle Street and the King's Highway, called Bridge Street (57). Whether they were compelled to open it is not recorded.

About this time the Hospital of St. John received a valuable benefaction.

In 1329, Sir Wm. de Horkesle, Knight, and Dame Emma, his wife, (with the king's permission) granted to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital a house in Northampton on the south side of the Church of All Saints.

In return for this the Hospital authorities agreed to establish a perpetual chantry in the Hospital church for the said Wm. de Horkesle and his ancestors, and for all the faithful departed. The chantry was to be served by one of the Co-brothers (specially selected for this office by the Master and Brethren and their successors in the Chapter of the Hospital) or by a secular chaplain.

Mass was to be celebrated every day for ever, except on Maunday Thursday (*Cene Domini*), Good Friday (*Parasceve*), and Easter Eve (*Sabbato Sancte Pasche*).

If the Master and Brethren or any of their successors neglected to celebrate—it should then be lawful for the Bishop to punish them canonically, and compel them by ecclesiastical censures.

This agreement was made on Wednesday after the Feast of St. Edward, King and Martyr (March 18th), 1329—30, and confirmed by the Bishop of Lincoln April 18th, 1330. (58)

The necessary permission from the king had been granted on March 1st previously, in return for 4 marks paid by the Hospital to the royal Exchequer. (59)

Seven years later (August 16th, 1337), King Edward granted a like permission (in return for 40/-) to Robert de Clendon, Clerk, enabling him to bestow a messuage and 36 acres of land in "Pydyngton," on the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Northampton, to find two wax lights (*cereos*) to burn on festival days before the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Hospital Church, while divine service was celebrated there for the soul of the said Robert, and his ancestors, and all

(57) Placita Corone, 3 Edward III., Lands. MS. 1029, f. 121.

(58) Bishop Burghersh's *Memoranda*, f. 374 (Lincoln)

(59) Patent Roll, 4 Edward III., pt. 1, M. 42. The house thus granted to the Hospital was found, on enquiry, to have been held of the King by a service of 2/- towards the yearly Farm of the town payable by the Bailiffs.

the faithful departed. Permission was also granted to the Master and Brethren to receive the same. (60)

In 1340, the Master and Brethren of St. John's received the most important of all their benefactions, and one which has influenced the whole after history of the Hospital. A considerable amount of property was granted to the institution by a certain John de Dallington, Clerk, and in return the Master and Brethren undertook to found a chantry for the said John de Dallington and to provide various allowances in food, money and clothing to the sick persons in the Infirmary, and to the Co-brethren of the Hospital.

The whole arrangements are fully set out in the Bishop's register at Lincoln. As is often the case with documents of this nature, the sentences are extremely involved, which makes the meaning of the injunction sometimes rather obscure; but the notes here inserted at the side give a summary of the most important points.

First we get an elaborate set of "ordinances concerning the condition of the poor sick people dwelling in the Infirmary of the Hospital of St. John, in Northampton." They were drawn up by Brother John [de Boketon], the Master, and the Co-brethren of the Hospital, and are dated Sunday next after the Feast of St. Bartholomew (August 24th, 1340); and were confirmed and approved by the Bishop's Commissary (61) on Wednesday next before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (September 8th), 1340. (62)

(60) Patent Roll, 11 Edward III., Pt. 2, M. 6.

(61) The Commissary was John de Wottesdon, Rector of Courtenhall, Commissary of Simon de Islip, Canon of Lincoln, and Vicar-General of the Bishop, then in foreign parts.

(62) Bishop Burghersh's *Memoranda*, ff. 374 and 375.

ORDINANCES FOR THE POOR SICK PEOPLE IN THE INFIRMARY
OF THE HOSPITAL.

Every sick person in Infirmary to receive daily a loaf, a quarter of wax, a flagon of beer, and a competent dish of pottage.

The bread, beer and pottage to be as good as that supplied to the Master.

Ale-money collected shall be treated as a separate fund.

Every day one half-penny of silver, as provided for by Wm. of Tolouse, shall in future be paid regularly to the poor.

Infirm poor, to the number of seven, to be admitted.

Persons shall be admitted without partiality, not by request, or for a price, or by reason of kinship.

“First we will, grant, and ordain that every sick person who shall hereafter be an inmate of the Infirmary of our said Hospital shall receive every day from our Hospital aforesaid one loaf weighing at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one quarter of wax, half a flagon (*lagena*) of beer (*cervisie*) and a competent dish of pottage—to wit of bread, beer and pottage as good as the bread, beer and pottage which we and our successors for the time being are accustomed to eat; and that he receive also from the kitchen for his dinner (*prandium*) as much as a third part of the portion of two priest-brethren of the said Hospital; and this in all things as fitly and sufficiently as can possibly be done, and at as suitable an hour as it may be served for the said brethren.

With regard to the ale-money (*cervisia*) to be collected for the same poor people in the town of Northampton of the alms of the faithful as the custom is (62*), let the poor aforesaid receive so far as shall be sufficient and competent under the name of the ale-money aforesaid, or of a part thereof.

We also will and ordain that for the future, every day, one half-penny (*obolus*) of silver (for the perpetual payment of which to the poor who dwell in the said Infirmary, for the soul of Wm. of Tolouse, we have long been bound)—shall be paid faithfully, and employed for the better refreshment of the poor people dwelling there.

And lest the admission of the infirm poor of this sort who throng together to the Hospital by reason of the aforesaid ordinances (which to the impious and undevout might appear burdensome) be in any way hindered, we establish and ordain that as many infirm of this kind as are drawn together to the said Hospital, shall be charitably received to the number of seven (the poverty or scantiness of the Hospital notwithstanding), so that this number shall ever be considered moderate and not burdensome to the said Hospital.

In the admission of whom let all partiality be done away with lest anyone be admitted by request, or for a price, by reason of blood relationship, kinship, or for reward of service; but

(62*) At Carlisle the inmates of the Leper Hospital received a pottle of ale every Sunday from each brew-house in the city.

before all things let the poverty of the persons, and the purpose of charity in that particular case, be considered.

If any shall chance to be admitted for the aforesaid unlawful causes mentioned above, or any of them, they shall not be reckoned among the said number of seven.

Poor above the number of seven are not to be admitted.

Poor of this sort above the said number coming together to the said Hospital shall by no means be admitted to any of the aforesaid charitable benefits, conformably to the number which it shall seem to us and our successors to be suitable for the means (*facultates*) of the said Hospital; nor lepers, nor constantly-ailing persons (*languidi perpetuo*) as the foundation charter of the Hospital enjoins.

Nor lepers, nor constantly-ailing persons.

A respectable woman to be appointed to look after the infirm.

Let there also be always one woman, honest and of good report, deputed to minister humbly and faithfully to all the infirm, and she, to the utmost of her power, shall relieve their necessities.

On admission to office she shall take an oath to fulfil her duties properly.

And as often as a woman is to be admitted in her succession to this office let her take a corporal oath on the Holy Gospels to this effect, without any pretence (*ficcione*).

A Co-brother to be appointed to look after the Infirmary.

Let there be deputed also one of the Priest-brethren of our said hospital, who shall be esteemed by all the Co-brethren of special competence for this purpose, to survey the said Infirmary with frequency and diligence, and to examine the state of these sick persons; and, if he shall find defect in the ministration of this woman, or in the service of food and drink to be ministered to the same sick folk, or in any particular whatsoever concerning or causing annoyance to the said sick, let him according to his powers cause this defect to be remedied without delay. And to the making of these amends with all the diligence and instance of which we shall be capable, we straitly bind ourselves and our successors by virtue of the present ordinance.

Likewise it is decreed, with the express consent of John de Daylington, chaplain, that the perpetual chantry which we are bound to celebrate for ever for the same John, his parents and benefactors, under oath taken by ourselves, and to be taken by our successors, corporally upon the holy gospels of God, and under pain of the greater excommunication canonically pronounced in this particular, be celebrated daily henceforward by reason of the said sick folk, when it may well be, at the altar of the said Infirmary in the western part of the chapel of blessed Mary the virgin next the organs; and when, on account of casual hindrance, it may not be celebrated in that place, then let it be faithfully performed at the altar of St. Mary in the

Mass to be celebrated daily at the Infirmary altar in the western part of the chapel of the Blessed Virgin next the organs.

said chapel, according to the form of the same ordinance, or elsewhere in the said Hospital, when haply it shall not be possible in that place, lawful hindrance intervening.

“ We will also that a copy of the present ordinances, according to the form of condemnation made in this particular, taken down in writing word for word and fastened on a board, hang for ever in the Infirmary aforesaid, to endure for ever, being ready for the inspection of all who wish to behold it; and that these ordinances, together with the form of condemnation aforesaid be read once every year for ever, within the month next following the feast of the Nativity of blessed John the Baptist, on a Sunday or feast-day, at the celebration of high mass in the said Hospital, during the solemnities of mass, when a specially large number of people shall be present, as largely and openly as they may be published and understood, at any rate in the mother tongue, and be expounded expressly to the people.”

A copy of these regulations to hang in the Infirmary and to be read once a year at High Mass.

CHARTER ORDAINING A CHANTRY FOR JOHN DE DALYNGTON. (63)

1340.

“ We also will and grant at the instance of the said John that all the rents and tenements which the said John lately purchased from us to be held for the term of his life, and for an unspecified term (*non modicum*) of years after his death, which amount to, or exceed the sum and value of 25 marks a year (which tenements together with 60/- a year due to him from us for his whole life for a certain corrody and pension, the said John surrendered and remitted to us for the chantry aforesaid and for the ordinances and covenants below-written, and also for the ordinances now newly put forth relating to the state of the poor infirm persons aforesaid) shall be paid and allotted for the future to the chamber money our Priest-brethren.

Rents to be paid to the common fund of the Priests our brethren.

20/- a year to be paid to each of the Priest-brethren for their dress and other necessities.

That so of the same rents and tenements every year for ever, first and principally, 20/- shall be supplied to each of our Priest-brethren residing under obedience of the Master of the said Hospital for the time being, for their dress (*vestura*) and other necessities so far as the said tenements and rents shall suffice. They shall be ministered by the hand of one brother of our same Hospital, who shall be elected as Chamberlain (*camerarius*) of the same Brethren (to receive the said rents and to minister them to his Co-brethren as aforesaid)—which said

A chamberlain elected by the chapter shall receive and administer the rents.

Chamberlain chosen by the common choice of the chapter, or at the least of the greater and wiser part of the said chapter, we wish to remain in office, or to be removed therefrom and changed, according to his behaviour (*gestum*) and according to the pleasure and common assent of the said Co-brethren.

The Master shall receive nothing from the said rents, either as Master or if he chance to resign.

Nevertheless the Master for the time being so long as he remains in the office of the Mastership of the said Hospital, and even if he is loosed from this state, whether by resignation, deprivation or in any other manner, shall receive nothing from the said rents and tenements either for his chamber, or for his person; but he shall be provided for from some other source out of the common goods of the said house.

But he shall be provided for in some other way out of the common funds of the Hospital.

We also will and grant that Brother Richard Carpenter (*Carpentarius*), our lay Co-brother (*confrater noster conversus*), shall receive 10/- a year for the term of his life from the said rents and tenements, by the hand of the said Chamberlain.

Brother Richard Carpenter shall receive 10/- a year for life.

With regard to the residue of all the said rents and tenements, over and above that which shall have been supplied to the said Brethren, as is premised, let it be disposed with all discretion possible for the utility of the said house, according to the free ordination of the greater and wiser part of the said chapter by the hand of the receiver of the rents, when it so pleases the said Brethren.

The residue of the fund shall be applied to the benefit of the brethren as the chapter shall think good.

If haply at any time henceforward the same Brethren or their successors, who are to receive clothing as is premised from the said rents, shall not have had succour according to the accustomed manner in meat and drink (of such competence that they shall have sufficient bread, ale, and pottage, and one dish from the kitchen) without the necessary ordinance of a subsidy from the said residuary fund over and above the chamber money of the Brethren, then from this residuary fund so far as it shall be sufficient, according to the common ordinance of the wiser and greater part of the said chapter, let special provision be made, by the hands of the said receiver of these rents, for the supply of this defect of victuals, according to the several needs of the same Brethren.

If there is any deficiency in the bread, ale, or pottage of the brethren, it shall be made good out of the residuary fund in the hands of the receiver of these rents.

Rents and tenements not to be alienated.

Nor let any of the rents and tenements aforesaid whatsoever be alienated for the future to anyone, nor let these tenements be further burdened, but let all the rents and tenements be kept for ever henceforward in the condition in which they now are, or in a better, for the carrying out of the provisions aforesaid, except so far as it shall be ordained by the free consent of the

Brethren aforesaid, that fuller provision be made herein for them and their successors in that behalf.

If the said rents are insufficient at any time to pay 20/- a year to any of the Priest-brethren, the money shall be found from some of the other funds of the Hospital.

And if by chance the said rents at any time in the future shall not suffice to pay the 20/- a year to any of the Priest-brethren, this defect, as often as need requires, shall be supplied from other better rents of the said Hospital.

Ordinances to be read in full chapter once a year.

We will also that all and singular the aforesaid ordinances and conventions, and the ordinance which has been published for the performing of the obit, and the distribution for the deceased Masters and Brethren of the said Hospital, shall be clearly read in our full chapter in the presence of the Co-brethren once every year for ever within the month next following the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed John the Baptist, so far as they can be most readily understood and learnt.

For the future every Co-brother, before being professed, shall take an oath on the Gospels to maintain these ordinances.

We will also and grant that for the future all and sundry who shall be admitted as Co-brethren of the Hospital shall, before their profession, take a corporal oath upon the Gospels, to keep all the aforesaid ordinances and covenants, and to maintain them as far as possible.

The Master and Brethren certify that they have taken this oath before Master John de Wottesdon.

Given in our chapter as regards the making of the first agreement, and the levy of the first fine in the premises, on St. Boniface Day (June 5th), 1337; and so far as the levy of the second fine, and approbation and confirmation of the premises, on Wednesday next before the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) 1340." (64).

(To be continued).

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN, NORTHAMPTON.

BY THE REV. R. M. SERJEANTSON, M.A., F.S.A.

(Continued from page 242).

NINE years after the drawing up of these important regulations, England was visited by that terrible form of the plague known as the Black Death, which carried off John de Boketon, Master of St. John's Hospital, and probably many of the brethren as well. During this awful year (1349) half the population of England are said to have died, and the visitation was especially severe in the religious houses. The after-results of the epidemic, so far as the Monasteries and Hospitals were concerned, were extremely disastrous. This arose from two causes. In the first place, their incomes were enormously diminished. In many cases it was found that all the tenants on a particular estate had died of the pestilence, and consequently no rents whatever were forthcoming. And even when this was not the case the result was bad enough. Here are a couple of examples from Northamptonshire shewing how land depreciated in value. On a Manor forming part of the estate of the Countess of Kent, pasture formerly worth 40/-, in 1349 only yielded 10/-; some brought in only 5/- in place of 18/-; and the sole reason given in each case for this serious depreciation, is the "mortality." A water mill and a wind mill "for the same cause" were let for 6/8 instead of the old 56/-.

On a Manor, near Blisworth, two mills in 1349 produced only 20/- in place of the old rent of 65/-, and two carucates of land produced only 15/- the carucate "and not more, on account of the mortality in those parts." (1)

So much for the material results of the pestilence; but from a religious point of view the effects were even worse. As has just been stated, great numbers of "the religious" were carried off by the disease, and their places were filled, only too often, by men of much inferior tone and character.

(1) Gasquet's *Great Pestilence*, 138.

Wadding, the annalist of the Franciscans, speaking of the pestilence of 1348—9, says:—"This evil wrought great destruction to the holy houses of religion, carrying off the masters of regular discipline, and the seniors of experience. From this time the Monastic Orders . . . began to grow tepid and negligent, both in that piety, and that learning, in which they had up to this time flourished. Then our illustrious members being carried off, the rigours of discipline relaxed by these calamities, could not be renewed by the youths received without the necessary training, rather to fill the empty houses, than to restore the lost discipline." (2)

This being the case, it is only natural to find that in very many religious houses a considerable laxity of discipline was allowed to creep in; and the Hospital of St. John in Northampton, during the later years of the 14th century, was a glaring instance of this deterioration.

So serious was the scandal in this particular house, that the bishop was at last obliged to interfere, and on March 1st, 1381—2, he appointed three commissioners to act as administrators and stewards of all the temporal goods of the house. They were Dan John, Rector of Everdon, John Wodevyle, "donzel" (3), and Master Henry de Buckingham, skilled in law. (4)

The bishop's letter begins as follows:—

"Seeing that we, fulfilling the debt of our office with respect to the due reformation of the state of the house of the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, making and paying, personally and constantly (*frequencius*), our visitations in the house aforesaid, with regard both to its head and its members, have thought fit to appoint warily (*provide*) certain ordinances, precepts and decrees for the removal of the very heavy expenses and losses, and for the correction of the excesses by reason of which, from the contents of the enquiries and *comperta* in the same visitations, it is evidently manifest (*legitime constitet*) to us that the aforesaid house is suffering immense and manifold damage (*lesionem*) in spiritualities and temporalities alike, and we have enjoined the Master and Brethren of the aforesaid Hospital, with the addition (*sub adieccione*) of penalties, to observe them inviolably; nevertheless it has reached us as a notorious fact (*facti notorietate*) that the same Brethren, openly and incorrigibly transgressing our ordinances, injunctions and precepts aforesaid, giving the rein to their own desires, foolhardily (*temerarie*) spend, waste, and publicly dilapidate

(2) *Annales Minorum*, VIII, 22. Gasquet's *Great Pestilence*, 216.

(3) A youth of good birth but not knighted.

(4) Bishop Bokingham's *Memoranda*, f. 234 dorse.

the goods and rents and provents of the aforesaid Hospital, in victuals, and raiment, and various pleasures, so that, while within a short space they unadvisedly consume their future means of life (*victum*), they must be drawing near utter want (*ad egestatis inopiam vergere eos oporteat*), and destruction and ruin are in all likelihood the imminent result to the Hospital aforesaid; especially since there is in the same no person of ability, knowledge and sufficiency for the prudent direction of the expenditure of the temporal goods of the aforesaid Hospital. We, therefore, wishing, as we are bound, to take precautions for the indemnity of the same Hospital, and to meet these great expenses and imminent dangers, as the notorious dangers aforesaid of dilapidation and waste (*consumpcionis*) require, and as other lawful causes impel us, depute and assign, by our authority as ordinary, you, of whose fealty, painstaking discretion (*discrecionis industria*), and zeal for furthering the profit of the aforesaid house, we possess full confidence in the Lord, to be curators, administrators and general stewards (*yconomos*) of all the temporal goods of the said house and Hospital, charging you to draw up a full and faithful inventory of the goods of the said Hospital, and to lay out (*exponatis*) those goods and the fruits, provents, and rents and obventions of the same Hospital to the due and necessary uses of the same Hospital, within the limits of (*infra*) the discretion given you by God; and to cause ministry to be made agreeably and becomingly and honestly in every necessary and requisite to the Brethren of the same Hospital, as its resources may serve (*suppetant*); and to cause the burthens incumbent on the same house to be borne, so that divine service be not scanted (*ut divina non fraudentur obsequia*), and the other works of piety which are ordained may be carried out in the same; in such wise that, when we shall require it of you, you may be able to render a due and faithful reckoning of your administration, and thereafter may have power to win (*reportare*) happily the guerdon of heavenly recompense." (4*)

The Master of the Hospital, to whose extravagance or weakness this disastrous state of things must have been largely due, was a certain John de Grafton. He was appointed 22nd December, 1376, and ruled over the house for thirteen years. Towards the close of his life he evidently made an effort to improve matters, for on 9th July, 1387, he obtained the king's permission to acquire in Mortmain lands and tenements of the yearly value of £10 in aid of the maintenance of the poor people living upon the alms of the Hospital. (5)

(4*) Bishop Bokingham's *Memoranda*, f. 234 verso (Lincoln).

(5) Patent Rolls, 11 Richard II., Part 1, M. 19. The licence was granted to John de Grafton, or any of his successors: and was in return for £10 paid into the Hanaper.

On the death of John de Grafton, in 1389, the Brethren of the Hospital elected Thomas de Adyngton to succeed him (Dec.) (6), but objections having been made to his election, a commission was appointed by the bishop to enquire into the matter; and during the vacancy Nicholas Goldsmyth, of Northampton, was deputed to look after the goods of the house (18th December, 1389). (7)

The bishop's commission, appointing Goldsmyth to this office, reads as follows:—

“ Carefully considering that voidances in devout places cause the same no little damage by reason of their long widowhood, we take counsel for the same places, and for those especially whereof we are patron and founder, to remove by our timely provision all the expenses which threaten the same places by occasion of such voidance.” The bishop therefore deposes Goldsmith to act as warden (*custos*) of the goods of the Hospital, during the vacancy caused by the death of Brother John Grafton, “ to the preservation of the foresaid Hospital and the furtherance of its profit,” until he has provided for a new Master, saving the regular discipline of the foundation of the Hospital, as appointed in time past. (8)

After keeping the post vacant for three months the bishop at length confirmed Thomas de Adyngton as Master, March 12, 1389—90, and he proffered his obedience to the bishop two days later (March 14). (9). Meanwhile the King hearing that the Mastership was vacant, granted it to one of his clerks, John Dautre, (March 18th); (9*) but the grant was revoked on July 10, when it became known that Thomas de Adyngton had been lawfully instituted a week before the King's nomination was made. (9†)

Even under the new Master the state of the Hospital was not all that could be wished, and after several visitations and warnings the bishop on 1st June, 1395, issued a new set of injunctions by which the Hospital should be governed in future.

(6) Bishop Bokingham's *Register*, II., f. 154 (Lincoln).

(7) Bishop Bokingham's *Memoranda*, f. 360.

(8) Bishop Bokingham's *Memoranda*, f. 360.

(9) Bishop Bokingham's *Register* II., f. 154.

(9*) Patent Rolls, 13 Richard II., pt. 3, M. 28.

(9†) *Ibid*, 14 Richard II., part 1, M. 34.

1395. INJUNCTIONS OF BISHOP BOKINGHAM.

John, by divine permission Bishop of Lincoln, to our well beloved sons the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Northampton, of our Diocese, health, grace, and benediction.

Those who wear the dress of the religious should profess some regular rule.

It is fitting that those who wear the religious habit should be professors of some regular observances, otherwise the dress is deceitful, its sign does not at all correspond with that of which it is the sign, and they have the appearance of piety, but deny the truth thereof, shewing themselves to be like whited sepulchres, which appear outwardly to men to be white, but within are full of filth (*spurcicia*).

In our visitation of the Hospital we have found certain matters needing correction.

But since we otherwise proceeding on our lawful progress (*tramite*), have lawfully visited your house in head and in members, and have found in the same certain things needing correction—we enjoin you to reform all these things in the manner following, together with a more perfect observance of the rule of life to be fulfilled.

An injunction to charity and the threefold vow of obedience, chastity, and poverty.

So, viz., that before all things having continual charity among yourselves without which nothing at all profits to our salvation, you should profess and keep these three things, without which no “religion” exists, viz., obedience to be shewn to your superiors, chastity to be observed, and life led without property.

Silence in Church, and Dormitory, and in Refectory when no guests present.

When guests are there speech to be only when necessary, and then short and with quick and modest utterance.

Eat together in Refectory and sleep in Dormitory.

All to be present at Divine Offices unless hindered by just cause.

And that abstaining from much talking (*multiloquio*), in which sin is rarely wont to be absent, you should keep silence in the Church and in the Dormitory, and do the same in the Refectory, when no guests are present. And when these are present, when occasion requires, it shall be lawful for you to speak for edification, or honesty, or the maintenance of friendship, but briefly, and in a low and modest voice. And in it [the Refectory] you may eat together, and rest in the Dormitory. And, unless there is any just impediment (we enjoin) that both you as well the Master as the Brethren, shall be present at the Divine Offices at the accustomed hours, only withdrawing yourselves from the same for some just cause intervening, and then without feigned pretence (*ficcione*).

To wear uniform habit of one colour, with a black cross upon it.

Which is to be worn outside the house.

No eating and drinking in private chambers or in the town.

No visits to town without leave or without the brethren's habit.

No eating and drinking after Complines.

No conversation with women dwelling in Hospital, except in presence of an honourable female companion. After Complines brethren to go to Dormitory.

Confess faults devoutly.

Corrections to be made in Chapter once a week.

Two receivers of rents to be appointed every year, and to render full account of their receipts.

The brother deputed to collect proceeds of indulgences in the country to swear to render faithful account of his takings of whatever kind within three days of his return.

And to commit it to writing in form of an indenture.

And that you wear a uniform and humble dress of one colour with a black cross upon it (*cum cruce nigra supposita*) for the future, going out of the bounds of the said Hospital as little as possible without this dress marked with a cross (*crucesignato*)

We further enjoin you to abstain from all revellings (*comessacionibus*) and drinkings held in private chambers, and in the town; and from going out into it without permission, and without the dress (*habitum*), and especially from eating or drinking at all after Complines (*Complectorium*); and from conversing and talking with women dwelling within the walls of the Hospital, except for just reasons and in the presence of persons of good repute—and then with a respectable female companion (*cum honesta comitiva*).

And that when Complines are said, as is the custom with other religious bodies, you, the brethren, go to the Dormitory, and that you keep and observe a due interval between Vespers and Complines.

And because human frailty is notoriously prone to fall, (we enjoin) that you confess your sins devoutly, as is fitting.

And that every week (*ebdomadis singulis*) a Chapter be held at least once, and that in it excesses and faults be humbly and reasonably corrected and reformed, without respect of persons, and without severity, hatred, affection, or favour.

Also we ordain and decree that there shall be elected every year, by the Master and Co-brethren, two receivers (*receptores*) who shall receive all things as well rents, as moneys and other profits belonging to the said Hospital, rendering faithfully and fully to the same Master and Co-brethren a description and account of all receipts and expenses during the year.

Also we further will and enjoin that the Brother deputed to collect the proceeds of indulgences in the country (*pro questu colligendo in patria*) shall swear on the Holy Gospels of God that within three days after his return to the said Hospital he will faithfully reveal to the said Master, and two Co-brethren chosen for this purpose, an account of his receipts (*perceptis*) given, promised or bequeathed, whether it consist of money, corn or any other thing, and cause it to be written out between them after the manner of an Indenture.

The Master,
Quaestor,
Chamberlain and
Cook to render
accounts in
Chapter yearly.

We further enjoin and ordain that for the future every year the Master, and *Quaestor* (collector of profits of sale of indulgences) aforesaid, together with the Chamberlain (*Camerarius*) and Cook (*Quoquinarius*) shall each render a full account in Chapter of the receipts passing through their hands.

The Master to
undertake no
important
business without
the consent of
the majority.

Moreover the Master shall not presume to undertake any serious business (*ardua negotia*) concerning the said Hospital, without the consent and assent of his Co-brethren, or the greater part of them, a deliberation having been held in the Chapter.

No alienations
of property
without legal
formalities.

And for the future he is to make no important alienations of property, or contracts, or lettings (*locaciones*) of manors, churches, lands, or portions, except with due legal formalities.

No wood or
timber to be sold
or given away
to relatives or
friends.

Nor is he to put up for sale, or give or distribute (at any rate in any considerable quantity) to any of his relatives or friends, any underwood (*Subboscum*), or timber (*Nemora*) belonging to the said Hospital.

No corrodies to
be sold without
Bishop's leave.

For the future no corrodies are to be sold without licence from us, or our successors.

Hospital Seal
to be kept under
three locks.

Let our common seal be kept under three locks.

Master not to
maintain his
parents out of
provisions of the
house without
consent of
co-brethren.

Also the same Master shall not maintain his parents out of the provisions (*proventibus*) of the same house without the consent of the Co-brethren.

Master and
co-brethren to
do their utmost
to recover
alienated
property.

The Master and others his Co-brethren shall do their utmost to recover the rents and rights taken away from the said Hospital, and for this they shall duly and earnestly insist with their lords and friends.

Constitutions of
Bishop
Grosseteste to be
read thrice a
year before
Master
and brethren
that they may
know and keep
them.

Further we ordain that the Constitutions of Lord Robert Grosseteste of happy memory shall for the future be read over three times a year before the Master and Co-brethren, so that Constitutions of this kind may be able to come to the knowledge (*notionem*) of each of them, and that the same Constitutions may be faithfully observed.

No novice to be
received without
due examination
in reading, or
assurance that
he is fit to take
his place in the
choir.

Also we ordain and decree that no novice (*novitius*) for the future be received into the said Hospital unless he has been carefully examined before the Master and Co-brethren in reading (*lectura*) and has been found by them fit for sustaining the burden of the choir (*pro onere chori supportando*).

Master and Priest-brethren to fast in Lent and at other appointed fasts, unless with legitimate excuse

Also the Master and Co-brethren of the said Hospital who are in Priests orders shall fast for the future in the 40 days of Lent, and on other fasts appointed by the Church, unless they can be excused for a legitimate reason, or by an approved right.

Master to treat co-brethren with kindness and courtesy, especially before laymen.

Also we ordain that the Master treat his Co-brethren with kindness and courtesy, and without words of strife or reviling (*rixosis seu opprobriosis*), especially in the presence of seculars ; and that the said brethren be submissive and obedient to the aforesaid Master, and reverence him both in gesture and in word.

Brethren to be obedient to Master.

These injunctions to be observed under pain of greater excommunication, and to be read once a month in Chapter.

Also we command you in virtue of obedience, and under pain of the greater excommunication, to observe inviolate all and singular our injunctions so far as they affect each and all of you : and we decree that once every month in the presence of you all, being assembled in chapter chapterwise (*in Capitulo capitulariter congregatis*) our aforesaid ordinances and injunctions shall be publicly read and recited.

In testimony whereof our seal is set to these presents.

Given at Sleaford, 1 June, 1395.

Given in our Castle of Sleaford on the first day of the month of June in the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and ninety-five, and in the thirty-second year of our consecration.

At the beginning of the next century we get an interesting note with regard to the Hospital of St. John, proving that the brothers sometimes took in boarders, and also shewing upon what easy terms livings were held in mediæval times. Among the Papal licences granted by Boniface IX., is one dated 2nd May, 1402, authorising Wm. Waring, vicar of Slipton, Northamptonshire, to take and let to farm to clerks or laymen for ten years the fruits of his benefices, *while engaged in the study of letters at an University, or while residing in the house or Hospital of St. John Baptist, Northampton, or at the Papal court, or on one of his benefices.* (10)

On May 3rd, 1402 (in return for half a mark paid into the Hanaper) the charters and privileges of the Hospital were solemnly confirmed by King Henry IV ; (11) and the confirmation was repeated on January 28th, 1403—4. Why a re-confirmation should have been necessary within so short a time it is difficult to say. (12)

(10) Calendar of Papal Letters, 13 Boniface IX.

(11) Patent Rolls, 3 Henry IV., pt 2. M. 22.

(12) Ibid 5 Henry IV., pt 2. M. 33.

There had been previous confirmations on 28 January, 35 Edward I. (1306—7) ; 16 March, 5 Edward II. (1311—12) ; and 5 Feb., 12 Richard II. (1388—9).

Two years later Edmund Buckingham, Master of the Hospital, died, and the brethren assembled in Chapter to elect a successor. Their names were Henry Whatcote, John Tyffeld, Thomas Adyngton, Thomas Chaucombe, and Henry Pylketon or Pilton. Their choice fell upon Henry Pilton. His election was duly confirmed by the Bishop, and on January 18th, 1406—7 he “did obedience.” (13)

Pilton’s tenure of office was destined to be a long one. He ruled the house for just 50 years, and was evidently a capable Master. The condition of the Hospital was not however very prosperous at this period. This was due partly to “plagues and deadly sicknesses of men, and epidemics and various other disasters”; and partly to the fact that many of the lands belonging to the Hospital had fallen out of cultivation through lack of tenants—which seriously diminished the income of the house.

This is clearly brought out in a letter, dated 16th January, 1432—3, (14) by which the Bishop grants to the Master and Brethren a certain relaxation of their rule, and dispenses them from their obligation to hire a Secular Priest to sing a particular Mass. The dispensation reads thus :—

“In the actual visitation, by our right as ordinary, of our said Hospital, both in the head and in the members of the same, and in our anxious inquiry regarding the state of our same Hospital, as is incumbent upon our pastoral office, we have manifestly found, among other gifts which have been conferred upon the said Hospital by Christ’s faithful, that certain persons, kindled by zeal and warmth of devotion and on account of the unfeigned affection which they bore to the honey-sweet (*mellifluam*) mother of God, to the increase of the worship of God in the said Hospital, and that the memory of the same His mother might be more excellently kept therein, lately conferred laudably upon the same, and made donation of certain lands and tenements for the support of the charge written hereunder, to wit, that the Master and Brethren of the said Hospital for the time being should cause a mass of the same blessed Virgin to be celebrated daily with music (*cum nota*) at the altar consecrated under the name (*sub vocabulo*) of the said glorious Virgin within the conventual church of the said Hospital, by one secular chaplain, appointed to be maintained and hired at the charges of the same Master and Brethren. Wherefore, as we have been in the sequel (*subsequenter*) sufficiently assured that the said lands and tenements have so decreased, and are so lessened in their yearly value, not by your default, but because of the downward (*declivo*) course of this changeful world, owing to plagues and deadly sicknesses

(13) Bishop Repyngdon’s Register, f. 224.

(14) Bishop Gray’s Memoranda, ff. 110 d. and 111.

of men and epidemics and various disasters, that they are in no wise sufficient to bear the aforesaid charge, especially seeing that these lands and tenements, by reason of the fewness (*raritatem*) of tenants, farmers and servants, now remain out of cultivation, and are almost reduced to barrenness, we therefore, considering that no one ought to be burdened beyond his competence (*ultra beneficium*), and wishing to recover our said Hospital from the final extermination which it may incur on this account, unless provision of a healthful remedy be made from some other source, and wishing to preserve the pious wishes of these donors, that they may be fulfilled, even if not altogether, yet to some extent, have thought fit to grant you indulgence by the tenor of these presents, and grant indulgence that you may have power to cause this mass to be celebrated in the form aforesaid by one of your Brethren whom you shall think fit to be assigned to this end, and that you may not be bound to furnish (*ad exhibendum*) any other secular chaplain to be hired (*conducticium*) for the celebration of the same mass; and in these respects by these presents we dispense you compassionately in the Lord." (14*)

After ruling the Hospital for half a century Henry Pilton died in 1455, and was succeeded by William Rote on 26th February, 1455—6. Rote was instituted to the Rectory of Piddington, on the presentation of Wm. Russheden, of Northampton, having obtained a Papal dispensation to hold, with the Mastership of the Hospital, a cure of souls.

The Hospital was still very poor, and in 1459 with a view to augmenting their income, the Master and Brethren petitioned the Bishop to allow them "to appropriate, unite, incorporate, consolidate and possess to their own uses the church of Piddington."

They pleaded that "by reason of hospitality and the common access of strangers who come thereto, and are regaled (*refectorum*) at the charges of the same Hospital, as well as by the burthen of the repair of its houses and buildings and of other buildings and tenements belonging thereunto, as also by the decrease in value of the farms of these tenements, and by the other burthens which fall upon the same Hospital and other casualties (*casus fortuitos*) which at this time more than usually arise to the damage of the same, it is abridged (*diminuitur*) in its resources and reduced to poverty (*depauperatur*), so that, unless with the help of some succour (*subvencionis*) the portion of the Hospital be enlarged, it cannot for long be maintained or carried on (*supportari*) or have power to prosper (*prosperari valeat*), in accordance with the suitable degree (*iuxta congruenciam*), which should duly be observed, of the hospitalty to be kept there, seeing that daily the world goes downhill (*se declinet*) for the worse."

(14*) Bishop Gray's Memoranda. ff. 110 d. and 111.

The Bishop granted the petition, requiring the Master to appoint a fit secular chaplain in place of a vicar to serve the cure of souls, 'an able and fit stipendiary priest who may be moved and removed (*mobilem et amovibilem*) at the absolute will (*nutum*) of the Master.' The Bishop reserved a pension of half a mark to himself and his successors. (14th August, 1459). (15)

The church was henceforth not merely an appropriated rectory. It was united and annexed to the Hospital, and the Master was *ipso facto* rector. No vicarage was ever ordained, the cure being served by a "conduct," or hired chaplain, who required no institution.

The fact that this church became, in 1459, an integral portion of the Hospital would make a vicar an anomaly, as it was no longer an independent benefice. The annexation, in fact, suppressed its individuality as a separate living. It was consolidated, not held in plurality, with the mastership.

Just a month after the annexation of Piddington to the Hospital, Richard Edwards (alias Cole) was appointed Co-adjutor to assist Wm. Rote, who was then "an old man and infirm of body" (13th Sept. 1459). It was specially provided that he should succeed Rote on his death or retirement; and a pension of 5 marks a year was allowed to Wm. Rote in case he chose to resign his office. (16)

Richard Edwards eventually became Master and held office till 1474 when he resigned.

The Brethren were thereupon called together to choose a successor. The names of the electors were William Yngryth (President), Thomas Rose, Robert Bateman, Richard Sherd, and Wm. Roller. Their choice fell upon Richard Sherd who was approved by the Bishop on Feb. 28th, 1474—5. (17)

Little is known about him except that his name occurs on a pane of old glass in one of the windows of the Hospital; and that it was during his time that considerable alterations were made in the structure of the Domicile—the dwelling-house of the alms-people and co-brothers.

After holding office for twenty-three years Sherd resigned.

He died five years later, and by his will, dated 16th May, 1503, he left his body to be buried "in the Chancell of the foresaid Hospitall." He describes himself as "Richard Sherd, Preste, late Maister of the Hospitall of Saynt John Baptist in Northampton." He bequeaths "to Mayster

(15) Bishop Chedworth's Memoranda, ff. 52 d. and 53.

(16) Bishop Chedworth's Register, f. dorse.

(17) Bishop Rotherham's Register, f. 44.

Thomas Parmenter, Minister of the Hospitall of Saynt Jonys, to fede preistes and clarkes beyng at my beryng." xx^s (18)

Sherd was followed in the Mastership by Thomas Parmenter (1498) ; and Wm. Atkinson (1515)

In 1520, the Hospital was visited by two officials of the Bishop of Lincoln, and the episcopal records contain a full account of what then took place. The record is one of much interest, as it enables us to catch a glimpse of the lives lived by the Brethren of the Hospital at the beginning of the 16th century.

"Northampton : St. John's Hospital. (20)

Visitation exercised in the same on Wednesday, the 13th June, in the year 1520, in the chapter-house in the same by Master Richard Roston, doctor of decrees, vicar general, etc., in spiritualities, with the assistance of Master John Burges, chaplain of the lord William, Bishop of Lincoln, bachelor in laws.

Names of the Brethren.

Master William Atkynson,	Dan John Chawles.
Master of the Hospital.	Dan John Nichols.
Dan John Calcote.	Dan Thomas Stafford.

The same have

The church of Piddington, worth yearly	£10 }
The church of Slypton, worth yearly	10s. }
and in lands and tenements and rents about	£55.

After there had been exhibited in the first place by the said Master of the Hospital the title of his incumbency, under the seal of the lord Bishop of Lincoln who now is (*moderni*), the same Master of that Hospital exhibited the evidence of foundation (*fundacionem*) of the same Hospital in (*sub*) tenor following :—

'To all the sons of holy mother Church at present and hereafter, William, archdeacon of Northampton, health in the Lord. Know that I have given and by my present charter have confirmed to God and blessed Mary, and the blessed John the Baptist, and John the Evangelist, and to brother Wymund of the Hospital of blessed Mary

(18) Lansd. M.S. 1028, f. 193. dorse. This abstract was copied by Bishop Kennett from a book of wills which has since been lost.

The witnesses of the will were Sir Wm. Chaddock (Chantry Priest of St. Giles') and Sir Richard Morden. Sherd leaves 13/4 to the Bishop of Lincoln for his mortuary due for his benefice of Burton [Latimer] ; and to the sustentation of the Church of Blisworth a message with 2 cottages and one yard of arable land.

(20) Bishop Atwater's Visitations, f. 126.

Magdalene, my chaplain, in free, pure and perpetual alms, my lodging (*hospicium*) in Northampton with the whole plot of land (*area*) pertaining thereto, and a rent of five shillings of the gift of Warner (?) Tyard, for the construction and foundation of a Hospital for the reception and refreshment (*recreacionem*) of the poor, infirm and orphans, except such as are incurable (*perpetuo languidis*) or leprous; and I appoint the same Wymund Master and Warden of my Hospital aforesaid, and of his Co-brethren, who in time to come shall join themselves (*adherencium*) to him; enjoining upon him and his successors that they diligently minister the comforts of human-kindness (*humanitatis solacia impendant*) to the infirm poor who shall throng together to the same; that they pray continually for me and my relations (*parentibus*), and their benefactors, and all the faithful living and departed; [and] that they hearken (*intendant*) with humble obedience to me while I live, and after my decease to the lord bishop of Lincoln and his successors, as true and perpetual patron of the aforesaid Hospital. Farewell.'

And [the charter] is sealed with a seal that still remains entire.

The said Master exhibited the book of the statutes ordained for the dole (*exhibendis*) of seven poor in the same, and also a bull of Pope Nicholas IV. concerning the non-payment of tenths from new-tilled fields (*novalibus*) and the fodder (*nutrimentis*) of their beasts. And there are maintained indifferently well (*satis honeste*) in the same Hospital eight poor folk according to the foundation thereof.

Dan Thomas Stafford, Fellow in the same, is not at all diligent in choir at the times of divine service, but sometimes absents himself from choir, and occupies himself elsewhere as he pleases. The same dan Thomas is seneschal, and is engaged in the business (*versatur in negociis*) of the college (sic!) His lordship enjoined that henceforth he make his attendance (*faciat presenciam suam*) in choir whenever he can, and that, when possible, he shall transact his business at other times.

An account is not rendered yearly in the same, but yet all the Fellows of the house say that the Master in the same manages the business of that monastery (sic) sufficiently well, with advantage and prudence. Nor has anyone of them ever known that Hospital better ordered, and governed than it now is. The lord vicar general willed that by the rendering of an account, the Fellows of the college be given more assurance concerning the state of the house.

The eight [poor folk] of the Hospital are marked with the cross, and so they have crosses set upon their several outer garments. And

the lord vicar general enjoined that these crosses be fastened in places where they may be seen (*patentibus*), and be not covered over with a hood (*capucio*), or anything else.

There are in the same college four chantries, and they are kept up, (*conservantur*) as the Master says ; and all the Fellows say the same.

A copy of the ordinances made for the infirm ought always to hang in some place where it may be seen in the Infirmary : this, however, is not now observed. The Master in the same place, however, said that the board whereon such a copy used to hang had been broken for some time, and that, as soon he conveniently can, on this side the feast of St. Peter's Chains (August 1st), he would fasten up such a copy again in the same place.

There were of old in the same a Master and five Brethren. Howbeit they are not bound by the foundation to any number, nor has it been customary for many years past for more than four Fellows to be in the same.

Every Fellow in the same has forty shillings yearly, lodging (*camera*) and raiment. By the statutes every Fellow ought to have 26s. 8d. administered to him by the hands of one of the Brethren. Now every Fellow has forty shillings by year, and the Master is well content that they should be paid by the hands of one of the Brethren.

It is also ordained that each year, when the ordinances of the chantry of John Dadlington (*sic*) are read, it shall be expressly defined that the same Master and Fellows are bound each day to one chantry with music (*cum nota*) for the soul of William Tolouse ; the which chantry for the soul of William Tolouse is kept daily, yet there is nothing read yearly in chapter expressly to this effect. The Visitor enjoined that this observance be kept henceforth, and the Master of the college promised that he would do so.

There are in the same college yearly 26 persons maintained at the charges of that college.

On the 15th day of the same month the lord vicar general, sitting judicially in the chapter house in the same place, the Master and all the Fellows being present, dissolved this his visitation."

Wm. Atkinson died in 1524, and was followed by Thomas Freeman, LL.B. The new Master, on the day of his institution exhibited a dispensation from Cardinal Wolsey (Archbishop of York and Legate *a latere*) enabling him to hold the Hospital of St. John together with the churches of Halloughton and Hardmead (Bucks.) in the Diocese of Lincoln. (21) He

(21) Register of Longland, Bishop of Lincoln, f. 92.

died (after holding the Mastership for only a few months) in 1525, and was succeeded by John Aras or Harryes, LL.B., Rector of Whiston.

A year after his appointment we get some idea of the income of the Hospital. A clerical subsidy, or tax was collected in the Diocese of Lincoln in 1526, and the collectors' accounts are still preserved at Lincoln. (22) From this interesting document we learn that the gross income of the Hospital amounted to £99 17s. 8½d., £15 13s. 4d. being derived from spiritualities (or pensions from churches), and £84 4s. 4½d. from temporalities (or rents of lands, etc.) After deducting various quit rents and payments including £20 for repairs; £10 for decay of buildings; £3 6s. 8d. to the Bishop of Lincoln for his visitation; £5 6s. 8d. the wages of the chaplain of Piddington; £16 for the maintenance of eight poor people; and various fees to bailiffs, etc.; amounting in all to £75 6s. 2d., we get the net income of the Hospital, liable to taxation, returned at £24 11s. 6½d.

Nine years later in the famous survey known as the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535, we have a much fuller return.

The gross income of the Hospital is given as £100 0s. 4½d. derived from the following sources:—

(1). *Demesne lands*

Profits of lands, meadows, grazings and pastures called "Demayns" never before rated (*arentata*), and now by view of commissioners and 12 sworn men valued at £14 4s. 4d.

(2). *Rents* in Northamptonshire, (23) from lands or houses, £65 14s. 2½d.

(3). *Rents* in Buckinghamshire £2 5s. 8d.

(4). *Sale of Wood* in Wolvey (Yardley Chase) £6 13s. 4d. (so valued but used to meet the expenses of the Hospital).

(5). *Spiritualities*, £11 2s. 10d., viz.:—Pension from the Church of Helmdon, 40/-; part of the tithes of Piddington, £8; pension from the Church of Slipton, 20/-; offerings and oblations in the Hospital, 2/10.

(22) Printed verbatim by the Rev. H. Salter (1909).

(23) The Hospital held property in Abington, Althorp (Old thropp), Blisworth, Courteenhall, Finedon, Gayton, Hanging Houghton, Hannington, Harrowden, Hartwell, Holcot, Kislingbury, Milton, Northampton, Quinton, Piddington, Rothersthorpe, Rushden, Slipton, Stoke Doyle, Tiffeld, Walgrave, Wellingborough, Whiston, and Wootton.

The outgoings may be summarised as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Fixed rents or rent charges due to the King and divers others	10	5	0
Pension to the Bishop of Lincoln for the appropriation of the Church of Piddington	0	6	8
Pension to the Abbot of St. James for the Church of Helmdon	1	2	0
Pension to the Abbot of Cirencester for the Church of Slipton	0	10	0
FEEES OF OFFICERS—			
Sir Francis Brian, Knight, High Steward ...	40/-		
Thomas House, (24) Bailiff of Tiffield, Thropp, etc.,	60/-		
— Lewis, Bailiff of Wootton	2/-		
	—	5	2 0

ALMS TO POOR PERSONS.

Alms given to the poor on the anniversary (held on April 16th) of Master John Cocks, Chaplain, benefactor of this Hospital, for his soul, and the souls of his parents and benefactors ... 4/11

Alms given to the poor on the anniversary (held on October 11th) of Thomas Parmenter, benefactor of this Hospital, for the soul of the said Thomas, and for the souls of his parents and benefactors 3/7

0 8 6

Alms given to eight poor persons, viz., Wm. Atkyns, John Black, Wm. Reve, Alice Fanshed, Joan Haule, Katherine Adams, Agnes Style and Margaret Willes—to each of them a half-penny in bread, a half-penny in beer (*servicia*), and one penny in meat or fish—to wit for the said eight poor persons *per diem* 16d., (25) and per annum £24 6s. 8d., of the foundation of John Dallington, Clerk by confirmation of Henry, formerly Bishop of Lincoln, founder and patron of this Hospital A.D. 1340, etc. — 24 6 8

- (24) By his will dated 12th September, 1540, he leaves to his son William "the lease of Tyffeld and the Baylyshippe, and all the Comodytes therto belongyng, the which I have of the howse and hospytall of Saynt John in Northampton." The will is witnessed by "Mr. Rychard Byrdsall, Mr. of Sent Johns in Northampton, Mr. Wyllm Reynolds, Mr. of [the] College in Towcetter, and Mr. John Lynnell, Vicar of Estonston (Easton Neston). Book G., f. 27 (1).
- (25) This was a generous allowance. At Wigston's Hospital in Leicester, the twelve poor men received only eight pence a week; three women a like amount; and nine women seven pence a week. At the Newark in Leicester, each of the 100 inmates of the Hospital received seven pence every Friday, and the ten women who looked after them, ten pence apiece. There was a further annual allowance (at the Hospital of the Newark) of 12/10 for salt and oatmeal for making porridge for the Bede-folk; and five yards of cloth was allowed every alternate year to each inmate for making their hoods and cloaks (*Tabardis vel togis*).

SALARIES.

The Master of the Hospital and two fellow Chaplains, viz., John Nicholls and to each of them £5, of the foundation of the Bishop aforesaid.	—	15	0	0
Total expenditure	£57	0	10
leaving a net income of	£42	19	6½
or if we omit the payments to the Master and Co- brethren	£57	19	6½

This famous Survey (known as the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*) owed its origin to the quarrel between Henry VIII. and the Pope. Up to the year 1532, a tenth of the income of every Ecclesiastical benefice in England had been, from time immemorial, paid to the Pope, and in the case of a vacancy in a benefice—the first year's income (First Fruits) as well.

In 1532 an Act was passed withholding this payment from the Pope, and in 1534 the First Fruits and Tenths were granted by Parliament to the King, as a permanent source of revenue. It was to ensure a more thorough collection of this tax, that the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* was drawn up in 1534—5. About the same time (1534) the Clergy of England were compelled, sorely against their will, to take an oath repudiating the Papal authority, and acknowledging Henry as *supreme head of the Church of England*. They were further obliged to acknowledge the validity of the marriage of Henry and Anne Boleyn, and to swear fidelity to them, and their offspring. Many of these "acknowledgments of supremacy," submitted to, and signed by the Religious Houses, are still in existence, and are now preserved in the Public Record Office, London.

The declaration drawn up and signed by the Master of St. John's and his Co-brethren, reads as follows :—

"Know all etc., that we Richard Byrdesall, Master of the Hospital of St. John, in the town of Northampton, and his Co-brethren (*confratres*) with one mouth and voice (*uno ore et voce*) and with unanimous consent and assent, by this our writing, under our common seal, given in our House or Hospital, for us and our successors, profess, bear witness, pledge ourselves, and faithfully promise that we, the said Master and Co-brethren, will ever render full, inviolate, sincere and perpetual obedience (*observancia*) to our Lord King Henry VIII. and to Queen Anne his wife, and to his offspring (*sobolem*) lawfully begotten, or to be begotten of the said Anne. And that we will notify this to our people, and preach and persuade them wherever place and occasion is given to us.

Also that we hold, and will ever perpetually hold, as a matter firmly and securely established, that our Lord King Henry, aforesaid,

is Head of the Church of England (*Caput Ecclesie Anglicane*). Also that the Bishop of Rome, who in his bulls usurpes the name of Pope (*Pape*) and arrogates to himself the title of Supreme Pontiff, has no greater jurisdiction committed to him by God in Holy Scripture in this realm of England, than any other foreign bishop (*externus episcopus*). Also that none of us in any disputation, either privately or publicly, will call the Bishop of Rome by the name of Pope, or Supreme Pontiff, but by the name of Bishop of Rome or of the Roman Church. And that none of us will pray for him as Pope, but only as Bishop of Rome. Also that we will adhere only to our said Lord the King and his successors, and will maintain his laws and decrees, forever renouncing the laws, decrees and canons of the Bishop of Rome which are found to be contrary to divine law and Holy Scripture, or against the laws of this realm.

Also that none of us all in any disputation, whether private or public, will presume to twist (*detorquere*) any extract from Holy Scripture to a strange sense, but will each, in a catholic and orthodox manner, preach Christ and His words and deeds, simply, fitly, sincerely, and after the pattern (*normam*) and rule of the Holy Scriptures, and of the catholic and orthodox doctors.

Also that each of us in his orisons and common prayers (*comprecationibus*) (26) to be made according to custom, will commend to God, and the prayers of the people, first of all the King, as supreme head of the Church of England; next Queen Anne and her offspring; then the Archbishops of Canterbury and York together with the other orders of Clergy, as seems fitting.

Also that we, all and singular the aforesaid Master and Co-brothers, and our successors, will firmly bind ourselves by a solemn oath (*jurisjurandi sacramento*), that we will ever faithfully observe, all and singular, the aforesaid injunctions.

In witness whereof we have affixed our common seal to this our writing, and have subscribed it each with his own hand."

The document is dated 20th August, 1534, and is signed by Richard Byrdesall, John Calcot, John Nycolls, John Atkinson and Edmund Curtes. (27) Attached to it is a fine seal, somewhat broken at the edges, with the figures of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, the patron Saints of the Hospital.

In pre-Reformation days this Hospital was often remembered in the wills of philanthropic folk.

(26) Literally prayer meetings.

(27) Acknowledgments of Supremacy (Northants.) No. 93.

Thus to take one very early instance, Wm. de Pavilli, in 1243, left twelve pence to the infirm people in St. John's Hospital, Northampton. (28)

By his will dated 10th December, 1464, Henry Stones, of Northampton, left 6/8 to the Brethren of the House, or Hospital of St. John (28*); and Thomas Brayfyld, of Northampton, "Dyster," in 1471, left to the Master and Co-brethren of the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Northampton, to the reparation of their Church 13/4, *in pecuniis numeratis* (money at its nominal value or by tale, as opposed to money by weight). (28†)

In 1504, Anne Wake, widow of Wm. Wake of Hartwell, left her body to be buried "in the chapel of our Lady in the Hospitall of Seint Johns of Northampton." "The Mayster of Seint Johns" was to be supervisor of her will and to have 20/- for his labour. (29)

In 1510 John of Tiffield, left one of his best heiffers (*bucula*) to the Hospital; (29*) and John Rushton, in 1514, bequeathed "to ye pore beydmen and women of Seyntt Johns iii^s. iiiid." (30)

Nine years later (1523), John Cocks, parson of the church of St. Gregory in Northampton, left certain lands and houses "to Wylliam Atkynson, Clerke, Maister of the Hospitalle of Saint Johns, and his Co-bretherene, of ye same howsse," to sing for him, etc., "at ye farmery [infirmery] aulter within the said Hospitalle"; (31) and in the same year, Maud Smyth, widow, bequeathed "to William Atkynson, Clerk, Maister of the house of Saint Jones (sic) in Northampton, to pray for me, 40/-." (32)

On July 4th, 1527, Francis Catesby of Whiston, Gent., bequeathed to the Hospital of Saynt John in Northampton, £10, to pray for his soul and the souls of [Sir John] Catesby his father and Dame Elyzabeth his wife at the fermery Masse in the said Hospital; (33) and a few months later (11 Feb., 1527—8) John Fisher of Little Billing, left 40/- to the Hospital of St. John to be made brother there, together with his wife and sister, and their names were to be registered in "the Farmerie Register," with the names of his father and mother—Richard and Agnes. (34)

(28) Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum* (1702) p. 424.

(28*) P.C.C., 8 Godyn (f. 60).

(28†) P.C.C., 10 Wattys (f. 78).

(29) P.C.C., 11 Holgrave. The will was proved 14 May, 1504.

(29*) Book A, f. 21. The testator's surname is torn off.

(30) Wills in Northampton Probate Office, Book A, f. 122.

(31) *Ibid*, Book B, f. 142.

(32) P.C.C., 5 Bodfelde.

(33) Northampton Wills, Book D, f. 61. One of the witnesses was Mr. John Harryes [Aras], Master of St. John's Hospital and Rector of Whiston.

(34) *Ibid*, Book D, f. 67. One of the witnesses was Mr. John Aras, Master of St John's

In 1537, Agnes Greves left "to the Master of Saynt John's vis. viii^d. and to every brother of the iiiii. brethren of the same place iiiii^d.; and to every young man that shall syng his First Masse vi^d. (35)

In 1538, the chancellor of the Bishop of Lincoln held a visitation of the Hospital. The visitation began on Saturday, October 12th, when the formal notices were read. Richard Birdsall, the Master of the Hospital, stated that all was well (*omnia fore bene*). Sir Thomas Bullin and Sir John Newton, the Co-brothers, affirmed the same, after examining of whom, the judge dissolved the visitation on Monday, October 14th. (36)

Eight years later another attack was made on the Church of England. An Act was passed in 1546 vesting in the King the property of all Colleges and Hospitals, and of such Chantries, Free Chapels and Gilds, as were charged with the payment of First Fruits and Tenths. Commissioners were appointed under this act to survey the various Hospitals, Colleges, etc., and the reports sent up by them are still in existence. With regard to St. John's Hospital, Northampton, they reported as follows:—

"Northampton, Sainct Johnes Hospitall, founded to finde one Master, two prestes, and viii. poore folke, and to kepe hospitalytie. All which number be at this present full. The said Hospitall is no parysh churche but onely for the company there inhabytyng. The valewe of the londs (lands) to Saynt Jonnes Hospitall appertening is worth per annum lxxxli. xs. i^d. ob.

[Payments] Whereof Rentes Resolutes (37) ixli. xs. ix^d.

The annuytie to Richard Burdsall, late Master there, xiiii^{li}. vis. viii^d.

The ii. prestes wages and dyetes viii^{li}.

The dyettes of viii. pore folke at xii^d. ye pece by ye weke—
xxli. xvi^s.

The Kinges tenthes cxv^s. xi^d. ob.

Fees of officers xiii^{li}.

Landes imparked by the Kyng xx^s.

(total) lxix^{li}. ix^s. iiiii^d. ob.

And so remayneth to the Master for his wage, and the main-
tenaunce of Hospitalitie xli. ix^d.

(35) Ibid, Book E, f. 255.

(36) Bishop's Visitation Book at Lincoln. The pages are unnumbered.

(37) Rent charges and fixed payments.

The valew of the goodes to Sayncte Jonnes Hospitall apperteynyng
xxvli. xviiis. xd.

Certen londis (lands) belongyng to the said Hospytall, lying in Tyffylde and Blisworth within the Countie of Northampton, have been solde (38) by Rychard Byrdsall, late Mr. there, to Edmund Knightley, Knight syth the iii. of February, anno xxviii^{mo} H. VIII. to the yerelie valewe of xviii^{li}. viis. (39)

King Henry died so soon after the passing of this Act that in only one or two instances was it put into force; but in the first Parliament of his successor, (Edward VI.) a new Chantry Act was passed, whose provisions were even more sweeping, and a vast number of colleges, chantries, schools, gilds and other useful institutions were then swept away.

The Hospital of St. John was fortunately allowed to remain, and not only so but it was treated with especial generosity by the King's commissioners. The Master and Co-brothers had evidently complained that they were over-assessed in the matter of First Fruits and Tenths.

The matter was gone into, and the following note has been interpolated into the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* :—

“The sum charged upon this Hospital was reformed by a decree by virtue of a commission in Easter Term. 3 Edward VI.” (40)

Then follows this entry :—

“Reformation of the Hospital of St. John aforesaid.

The said Hospital for divers causes in a certain decree in the Court of First Fruits and Tenths of our Lord the King, published, issued and made known in Easter Term in the third year of his reign (1549) by the Chancellor of the said Court, with and by the consent of the Council of the said Court; as by a decree published on May 16th in the year aforesaid, and by a certificate of William Chauncy, Richard Wake, Francis Tanfield, and Robert Chauntrell, Esquires (made by virtue of a commission of the King to them directed on March 6th, in the year aforesaid) more plainly appears, was reformed at £25 6s. 2½d.” (41)

In other words the tax (tenth) paid annually by the Hospital to the King was reduced from £5 15s. 11½d. to £2 10s. 7½d.

(38) A deed in the Hospital chest shews that this sale took place 11 June, 29, Henry VIII., in consideration of £100 paid to Richard Birdsall, and an annual rent of £6. In 1535 these lands had brought in £11 13s. 1¼d. per annum.

(39) Chantry Certificate, No. 36. (2).

(40) (*Valor Ecclesiasticus*, Northampton, Portfolio 2.) This note, which is written in the margin, does not occur in the printed copy of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

(41) *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, Ex. First Fruits and Tenths, Northampton, Portfolio 2.

For the next five-and-twenty years little or nothing is known with regard to the history of the Hospital.

Richard Birdsall (so often mentioned above), retired on a pension in 1544, and was followed by Arthur Lowe, who held the Mastership for 25 years. On August 25th, 1569, he resigned his post as Master of St. John's, but continued to hold the Rectory of Great Houghton (to which he had been appointed, 15th April, 1550) for nine years longer. He died at Great Houghton, and was buried there, 3rd January, 1577—8. (42)

In 1569, Arthur Wake became Master of the Hospital, and in spite of numerous efforts to eject them, he and his brother and his great-nephew held the office successively for over a century. Arthur Wake, "a famous minister of the Gospel," was the third son of John Wake, of Salcey, Esq., and was a student of Christ Church, Oxford, 1561; M.A., 1566; Canon of Christchurch, 1567. He was Rector of Great Billing from 1565 till 1573, when he was deprived for Non-conformity. At the same time he was also deprived of the Mastership of St. John's Hospital, and Robert Condall (afterwards Archdeacon of Huntingdon) was inducted in his stead, 27th March, 1574. Wake betook himself to Jersey, but still acted as Master, and it seems extremely doubtful whether Condall (although formally inducted) ever really obtained possession of the Hospital.

In a survey of the clergy of the Diocese of Peterborough, of 1575, (43) Arthur Wake still figures as Master of St. John's, but there is a note against his name to the effect that he "stands deprived of his office" (*qui tandem stat inde deprivatus*). He is described as being 33 years of age; married; in priest's orders; a bachelor of Theology; and well-learned in Theology and the Latin tongue; he does not conform (*non conformis*); and he is resident in France (Jersey) with the Queen's Governor (*cum legato domine regine*). (44)

Notwithstanding his non-residence and non-conformity, and in spite of all efforts to eject him, Wake managed to retain his Mastership. The secret of this is easily explained. He had at his back the influence of the Earl of Leicester, the Queen's all-powerful favourite, as is shewn by the following letter, written in the year 1575.

(42) His will (P.C.C., 10 Langley) is dated 2nd Dec., 1577, and was proved 1st Feb., 1577—8. He leaves to Mr. Laurence Washington one pece of golde of fifteen shillings. He instructs his executors to "leave standing all the sealinge and glasse in and about the parsonage of Much Houghton to the next incumbent." One of the witnesses was Richard Trowell "Chirurgian."

(43) It is undated, but from a comparison of names must have been drawn up in 1575.

(44) Lambeth Miscellaneous Charters vol. XIII. (2).

“After my most hartye comendacions to yor good Lordship, I am gyven to understand that you have of late molestyd my very loving frende Mr. Arthur Wake, in seeking to remove him from the possession of a certen Hospitall wch he hathe in Northampton. What cause there ys to induce you so to do, I knowe not, but I presume so moch of his gret honesty that there is no cause gyven by him towards you.

Wherefore these are to praye you in anye wyse from hens furthe to forbear anye further to deale therein, and to suffer him quietly to enjoye the same without any your further let by anye meanes, as you intende to have me favorable in any your requests hereafter, and as you will gyve me cause to contynue your frende, and thinke well of you.

And so I byd your L. hartely fare well, from your assured and lovinge frende.”

This document is endorsed “1575. M[emorandum] of a lettre from the Erle of Leycester, for my brother Wake, to the Bishop of Lincoln.”

Attached to this memorandum is another letter, from Wake's brother. It begins :—

“Good cousin, I must crave at your handes so moche frendship as for to sende me a copie of a licence for a spirituall person, or other, to enjoye his lyvinge in the realme notwithstanding his absence. So yt ys that my brother, Mr. Arthur Wake, Mr. of Artes, ys nowe and hath been this twelve-month in Jersey, with Mr. Paulet, (44*) captayne there, and intendith there to contynue. And there wilbe meanes made to the Quenes majestie for him that he maye enjoye his livinge notwithstanding his absence. Yf they had the byll made, he wolde have a copie, and wolde take advise for the sure making in lawe. My cosin Nicasius, or Mr. Windebanke, made one this last somer, for one Mr. Wylburne, who lykewise ys in Jersey. They wolde glad (the sentence is unfinished).” (45)

Some ten years later, the townsmen of Northampton (taking advantage perhaps of the absence of the Earl of Leicester, in the Netherlands) made another attempt to get rid of Arthur Wake.

Among the Domestic State Papers in the Public Record Office, is a petition (46) setting forth, with more or less accuracy, the history of our Northampton Hospital. It reads as follows :—

(44*) Three Paulets in succession were Governors of Jersey, and ruled the Island with a rod of iron. Sir Hugh Paulet was one of the chief promoters of the Reformation and appears to have been a strong Presbyterian. He died in 1572, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Amias Paulet. He appointed his brother, George, bailiff of Jersey, in 1583, and his own son Anthony as Lieutenant-Governor. On his death in 1589, his son Anthony succeeded him as Governor. (Le Quesne's Constitutional History of Jersey).

(45) Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, Addenda, vol. 24, No. 52.

(46) Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. 175, No. 99.

“The state of the Hospitall of Sancti Johannis in villa Northampton, accordinge to the first foundacons, and the maner howe it ys used at this daie, viz., the said Hospitall of Sancti Johannis was founded and endowed with dyvers lands and tenements longe before the statute of Quia Emptor. terr. Simon, Earle of Northampton, did geve all his lands in the County of Northampton, to praye for the soule of Symon Earle of Northampton, his father, *in perpetuam*, etc. There was dyvers other persons that did likewise geve dyvers other lands and tenements to the said Hospitall, the yerely revenewe whereof appeerethe by a certificat thereof made unto the office of the first fruits and tenthes A^o xxxvi^{to} H. R. octavi.

John, Bysshop of Lyncoln, that was in anno 1395, did sett downe what constitucons and orders the Mr. and his Brethren of the said Hospitall should observe and kepe in the government thereof, and what officers should be resident within the said Hospitall, and how and in what manner the lands and Revenewes belonginge to the same should be ordered and imployed, and dyvers other constitucons and orders are therein conteyned at large as by the same more playnely appearethe.

There hathe bene dyvers Justices within the Countie of Northampton with dyvers other persons of good creditt, that hath taken vewe of the said Hospitall, that the said Hospitall together with the Revenewes thereof, were not imployed nor used accordinge to the first foundacon as did then manifestly appeare, but were converted to the privat benefett and comodity of such persons as the orders of the house would not warrant. And that hardly the xxth parte of the said Revenewes were at any tyme geven to the releife of any impotent, aged, or feeble persons.

One, Mr. Wake, that pretendethe hymselfe to be Master of the said Hospitall, would not permitt nor suffer the said Justices to take any vewe of the Evidences belonginge to the said Hospital.

The cause wherfore the said pretended Mr. would not permitte the said Justices to tak vewe of the said Evidences was afterwards dyscovered by certen credible persons, who affirmed that the most parte of the Evidences of the said Hospitall were burnt, of late yeres, by one Mr. Lowe, that was late Mr. thereof, who affirmed that if the said evidences should come to light that they would overthrowghe the wholl state of the said Hospitall.

And lastly the said Justices did fynde that the said Hospitall was greatly decayed, and the cheefe howse belonginge to the same was pulled downe and made a pryvat dwellinge howse. And the late Masters of the said Hospitall have taken upon them of their owne

authoritie to mak leases, for many yeres, of the said lands and tenements belonging to the said Hospitall, not reserving the olde and accustomed Rentes.

And to dyvers they have made grantes of the said landes in Tayle to them and to their heires males, and for want of such yssue, made for foure score yeres after to their assignes. And to some they have solde a waye dyvers of the said landes, to them and to their heires for ever, preservinge some smale cheefe Rente or almost noe Rent at all. So as if these and dyvers other abuses be suffered, within verie short tyme the wholle Revenewes (47) of the said Hospitall wilbe cleane confiscate.

Neither is he yt pretendeth himselfe Mr. suche a person as by the constitucon of the said house he ought to be, neither yet lawfully called or preferred to that place for it is apparant he is elligible by the fellows and brethren of the said howse. And there was non [at] all present at the election of him, so yt I playnlye take yt by lawe the house is relinquished and so in her majesties [hands] by 31. H. 8." (48)

It was perhaps as a result of this letter that the following entry relating to the Hospital occurs in the Patent Rolls. It is dated August 2nd, 1585, and reads as follows:—

"The Queen grants to Theophilus Adams and Thomas Butler all lands and tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in our County of Northampton, lately belonging to the Hospital of St. John in the town Northampton, and given to the same by a certain Archdeacon without the King's licence." (49)

The plea was of course frivolous as the lands given by the founder, Archdeacon William, had been expressly confirmed to the Hospital by Henry II., Edward I., and various other Kings (see above). Probably the grant was only intended as a means of extracting money from the poor Hospital.

Three years later Queen Elizabeth granted the Hospital to another would-be purchaser.

13th July, 1588. The Queen grants (*inter alia*) to Wm. Tipper "All that our Hospital of St. John in Northampton, and all lands belonging to the said Hospital, in Northampton or elsewhere, formerly given, or

(47) In a Clerical Subsidy Roll of 1581—2, the Hospital is thus described:—The Hospytall of St. Johns in the Towne of Northton, ys employed towards the mayntenaunce of pore people and not chargeable by this Acte, and valet (worth) per annum £25 6s. 2½d. (Clerical Subsidy Roll, 49/22). In 1586—7 it is given as £35. Ibid.

(48) Domestic State Papers (Elizabeth), vol. 175, No. 99.

(49) Patent Roll, No. 1257 (27 Elizabeth, Part 4, M. 32).

bequeathed, for the maintenance of Chaplains, or for other superstitious uses (*usus superstitiosos*) in the Hospital aforesaid." (50)

Again on March 30th, 1592, we find a third grant recorded. In this instance, Wm. Tipper and Robert Dawe were the grantees. They now received a specific grant of "a rent of 10/- from the two chantries formerly founded in the Hospital for the soul of Wm. of Tolouse; and 10/- from the two chantries founded in the same Hospital of St. John for the souls of Wm. Horkesle and John Dallington." (51) This last entry doubtless explains the previous one. By an act of Edward VI. the property of all Chantries, Gilds, etc., was vested in the King, and as a result, the lands given to maintain the four above-mentioned Chantries in St. John's Hospital passed in 1547 to the crown. From these an annual rent charge of 20/- was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1592, to Wm. Tipper and Robert Dawe.

In the grant of 1585 the Queen claimed to dispose of the whole property of the Hospital. This was successfully resisted, and in 1588 and 1592 the crown attempted to discriminate between the actual Hospital, and such parts of its revenue as had been given to maintain masses for the dead, and other "superstitious uses."

A few years later, Arthur Wake, whose chequered career has just been described, died July 11th, 1596, and was buried on the north side of the choir of Oxford Cathedral, of which he had been a Prebendary for 33 years. He appears to have resigned the Mastership of St. John's Hospital shortly before his death, and was succeeded by his brother, Wm. Wake, who held the office of Master for over forty years. (52)

Wm. Wake is described in a 17th century document as a "benefactor" to the Hospital, and it is certain that on November 4th, 1608, he obtained a royal licence from James I. to acquire for himself and his successors, lands and rents to the annual value of £30 (notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain) for the perpetual sustentation and relief of the same Hospital. (53)

(To be continued).

(50) Patent Roll, No. 1319 (30 Elizabeth, Part 16, M. 24).

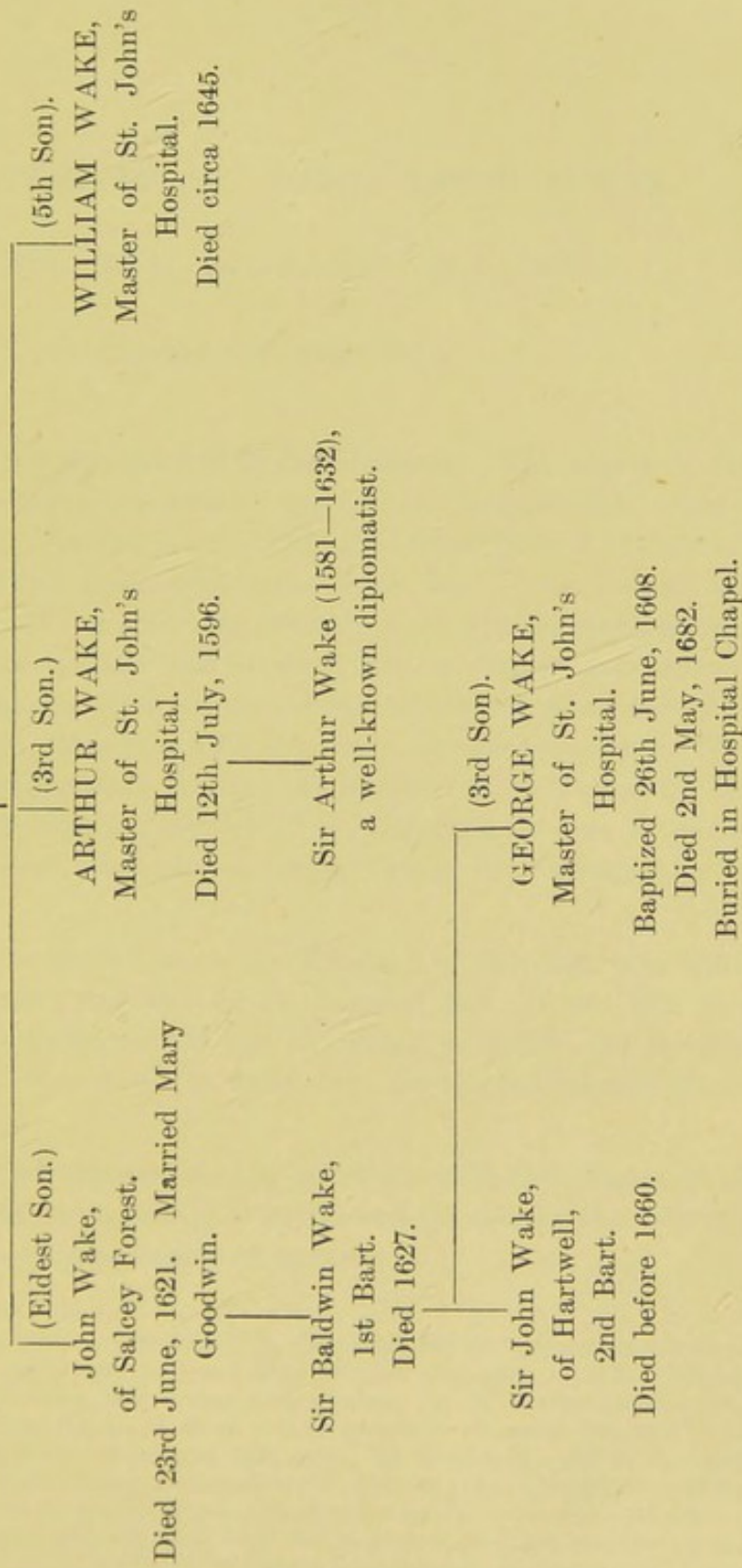
(51) Patent Roll, No. 1382 (34 Elizabeth, Part 4, M. 38).

(52) The exact date of his appointment is unknown. There is no record of his presentation or institution either at Lincoln or Peterborough.

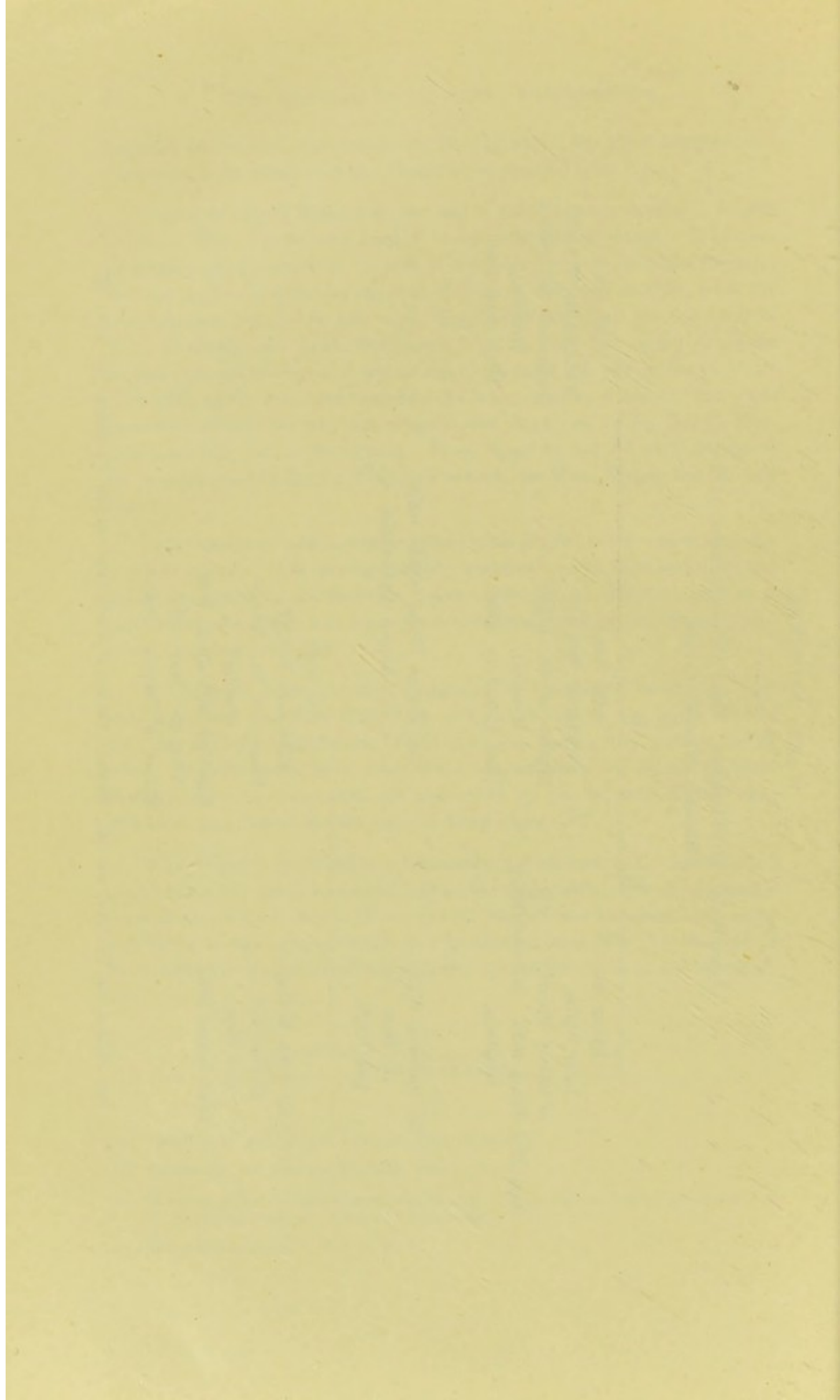
(53) Patent Roll, 6 James I., Part 8, M. 2.

WAKE PEDIGREE.

John Wake, of Piddington. Died 15th September, 1572.
 Married Elizabeth Gorges.



For further particulars, see Mr. Oswald Barron's *Northamptonshire Families*, pp. 325—327.



THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN, NORTHAMPTON.

BY THE REV. R. M. SERJEANTSON, M.A., F.S.A.

(Continued from page 290).

IN 1630 a New Charter was granted to the Hospital. The reason of this is explained by two documents which have hitherto escaped the notice of all local antiquaries. The first is an entry in the Patent Rolls of 17 James I., by which it appears that three speculators, John Buck, Wm. Lingon, and Wm. Wells, purchased from the king (13th July, 1619) an immense amount of ecclesiastical property—the title to which was, in many cases, exceedingly doubtful. Among other things the patentees received a grant of no less than thirty-three Hospitals with the lands thereto pertaining. Two of these were in Northampton, viz., (a) the Hospital of St. Leonard; and (b) “*all that Fraternity or Hospital of St. John, in the town of Northampton, lately dissolved, and all messuages, lands, etc., belonging to the same.*” (*)

It was stated, moreover, that the Hospital of St. John was worth £3 6s. 8d. per annum; and that of St. Leonard 20/-. From this it is clear that what was really granted was the small portion of the Hospital property which had been given in early days for the provision of Masses for the dead.

Shortly after this transaction the patentees sold their rights in the Northampton property to a certain Wm. Boswell (1) who in the following reign became a man of considerable importance.

(*) Patent Roll, 17 James I., pt. 3, M. 33.

(1) Wm. Boswell was a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, but having been incorporated at Oxford, 12th July, 1608, he was Proctor of that University in 1624. Entering the diplomatic service, he was appointed Secretary to Sir Dudley Carleton, then Ambassador at the Hague, to whose post he eventually succeeded. In 1633 he was knighted at Bockstal, in Brabant (25th July). He discovered a plot of the Jesuits to overthrow Charles I., and communicated the news to Laud, who immediately took steps to frustrate it. Boswell's promptitude in the matter was much commended by the King. On the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, Boswell did his utmost to preserve the neutrality of the Dutch, who had leanings towards the Parliamentary party, and in this he was for a time successful. Besides being a clever diplomatist he was also a scholar and a man of letters. He died in 1649. (Dict. of Nat. Biog.)

This explains our second document, which is now preserved among the Domestic State Papers of Charles I. It is a petition to the king from Wm. Boswell, M.A., one of the clerks extraordinary to the Council. It is dated November 5th, 1629, and states that whereas the king's father granted the Hospitals of St. Leonard, and St. John, Northampton, to certain patentees, with whom the petitioner has dealt for their estates, the petitioner prays the king to re-incorporate St. John's as a lay Hospital, and to confirm the petitioner (Wm. Boswell), as first Master. The petition was granted, and a warrant issued to prepare the grants in accordance with the prayer of the petitioner.

The Bishop of Lincoln, the patron of the Hospital, raised no objections, and as a matter of fact, he had already (a few weeks previously) collated Boswell to the Hospital. The wording of the deed of presentation is worth noting :—

“26th October, 1629, at Buckden, John, Bishop of Lincoln, conferred the Hospital of St. John, Northampton, *lawfully and of right vacant*, on William Boswell, M.A., with a commission to Edmund Pope, LL.D., to administer to Mr. Boswell the oaths of supremacy, allegiance and canonical obedience.” (2)

As a matter of fact however the Hospital was *not vacant!* The old Master, Wm. Wake, was still in possession, and continued to hold office till 1638, when he resigned in favour of his great-nephew, Dr. George Wake. Nevertheless in the new Charter (which is dated 6th July, 1630), Boswell is spoken of as Master, or Warden, in every instance.

The honour however was evidently only a nominal one. The old Master (Wm. Wake) still remained in office, and continued to grant leases, etc., in his own right, till the day of his resignation.

(2) Lincoln Presentation Deeds, 1629, No. 34.

CHARTER OF CHARLES I.

Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., to all to whom these present letters may come, greeting, etc.

Hospital founded by William, Archdeacon of Northampton.

Who gave his lodging for the purpose.

For the reception of sick poor and orphans (the incurable and lepers being excepted).

Wymund appointed first Master.

The Bishops of Lincoln have always appointed the Master whenever a vacancy occurred.

Divers lands have been given to the Hospital.

Some given "for superstitious uses."

By reason of which the whole Hospital was seized into the King's hands.

Whereas William, formerly Archdeacon of Northampton, did by his charter grant and confirm to God, the Blessed Mary, and the Blessed John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, and to Brother Wymund of the Hospital of the Blessed Mary Magdalen, his chaplain, in free, pure and perpetual alms, his lodging in Northampton, together with the whole plot of land (*tota area*) pertaining thereto, and a rent of 5/- of ordinary gift, to build and found a house of hospitality for the reception and refreshment (*recreationem*) of sick poor and orphans (those perpetually ailing and lepers always excepted), and appointed the same Wymund, Master and Warden of the said Archdeacon's Hospital, and of his Co-brothers in time to come, firmly enjoining him and his successors so far as he could, that the solace of humanity should be diligently shown to the infirm poor flocking together there—that they might diligently pray for the said Archdeacon and his parents and benefactors, and all the faithful, living and departed; and that he should humbly obey the said Archdeacon while he lived, and after his death the Lord Bishop of Lincoln and his successors, as true and perpetual patrons of the aforesaid Hospital, as by the record of the charter aforesaid more fully appears. And whereas the Bishops of Lincoln aforesaid, from time to time since the death of the aforesaid Archdeacon, have nominated and appointed the Master and Warden of the Hospital aforesaid (whenever the post was vacant). And whereas divers other lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments have been given and granted to the Hospital aforesaid, since the time aforesaid, and are now, or were lately, in the rule and possession of the Master or Warden of the said Hospital to be disposed to the uses and intentions aforesaid. And whereas of the lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments which were given to the said Hospital certain parts were given and intended (as we are informed) for superstitious purposes, and were so used; by reason or pretext of which the whole Hospital aforesaid, and all the lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments of the same Hospital were seized into our hands, or were pretended to have been seized, by virtue or colour of a

By virtue of a statute dissolving all Hospitals, etc. appointed "for superstitious uses."

The King nevertheless confirms and re-founds the Hospital.

statute made and passed for the dissolution of Colleges, Chantries, Hospitals, and all other bodies of this nature, given, granted, limited and appointed for superstitious uses (*ad usus superstitiosos*). We, considering what a pious and wholesome thing it is to increase and establish good and Christian works, have determined to continue, and confirm, or to re-found and establish the Hospital aforesaid, and all that pertains to it, according to the charitable intention of the first founder and other benefactors of the same (all superstition and abuse being removed).

Know therefore that we of our special grace, and of our certain knowledge, and unprompted by others, will, ordain, grant, constitute, ratify, and confirm and by these presents for us and our heirs and successors, will, ordain, grant, constitute, ratify, and confirm, that for the future for ever there may be and shall be in the town of Northampton in our county of Northampton, one Hospital for the reception and refreshment of sick poor and orphans (the perpetually ailing and lepers always excepted), and that the aforesaid Hospital of the aforesaid William, Archdeacon of Northampton, in the town of Northampton aforesaid, may be and shall be a Hospital for the reception and refreshment of infirm poor and orphans (those perpetually ailing and the lepers excepted) to last for ever.

The Hospital shall be called the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Northampton of the foundation of King Charles.

A discreet man and a graduate shall be chosen as Master or Warden.

who shall rule over the Hospital and possess the lands, etc., there-to belonging.

Whereas the Bishop of Lincoln by charter dated 7th June, admitted Wm. Boswell, M.A., as Master.

And we erect, found, make, create, and establish, ratify and confirm the Hospital aforesaid for us, our heirs and successors, that it shall be and be called the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in the town of Northampton of the foundation of King Charles. We wish also, and by these presents for us and our successors constitute and ordain that for the future there be and shall be for ever, one discreet man and a graduate, who shall be elected, ordained and constituted as is mentioned later in these presents, and who shall be called Master, or Warden of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in the town of Northampton of the foundation of King Charles, which said Master, or Warden, from time to time, may and shall have possession, rule, and governance of the Hospital aforesaid, and of all lands, tenements, revenues, hereditaments of the Hospital aforesaid, after the manner of past times, and according to the true intention of these presents.

And whereas the Reverend Father in Christ, John, now Bishop of Lincoln, by his charter sealed with his Episcopal seal, bearing date the seventh day of this instant month of June, has admitted his beloved in Christ, William Boswell, M.A., to the

Mastership of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in the town of Northampton, then legally and lawfully vacant (3), and from motives of charity (*charitatis intuitu*) has conferred the said Hospital upon the same William, and ordained, made and constituted him Master, Rector, and Warden of the said Hospital with all rights and appurtenances, to be governed, possessed and held for the term of his life according to the custom of times past.

His appointment.
is here confirmed

We holding the aforesaid admission, collation, ordination and appointment valid and lawful, have ratified, approved, and by these presents confirmed the said place or office of Master, Rector and Warden of the Hospital aforesaid to the same William for his life. And we, of our special grace, and sure knowledge, and unaffected by the promptings of others, and for us, our heirs and successors, have given and granted to the aforesaid Wm. Boswell the place or office of Master or Warden of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in the town of Northampton of the foundation of King Charles, with all its rights, members and appurtenances; and by these presents (for us, our heirs and successors) we have nominated, made, ordained and constituted the said Wm. Boswell, Master and Warden of the aforesaid Hospital of St. John the Baptist in the town of Northampton of the foundation of King Charles, with all its rights and appurtenances, to do and execute all things which pertain to the Master and Warden there, according to the custom of times past and the true intention of these presents, to hold to the same Wm. Boswell for the term of his natural life.

He is to hold
office for life.

And for the better fulfilment of our intention aforesaid, of our fuller and special grace, of our certain knowledge and of our own accord (*mero motu*) we have given, granted and confirmed, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors have given, granted and confirmed to the aforesaid Wm. Boswell the the Hospital aforesaid, situate in the town of Northampton aforesaid in the aforesaid county of Northampton, together with the whole area pertaining to the same, and the aforesaid annual rent of 5/-, and all lands, tenements, rents, tithes, reversions, and hereditaments whatsoever, of what kind, nature or species whatsoever, or by whatsoever names they are known, reckoned, called or recognised, and wheresoever situate, lying or arising, to the said Hospital—or for whatsoever uses or intentions

All the Hospital
property is
confirmed to him.

(3) As a matter of fact it was not vacant (see p. 2).

to the Master or Warden of the same now or heretofore belonging or appertaining, given or granted ; or together with the same Hospital heretofore held or used, or by the Master or Warden of the same heretofore occupied, let or demised, together with all their rights, members and appurtenances ; and the reversion or reversions of the same, and all and singular rents and annual profits of or for the same, or any of them, or any reversion, to hold to the same Wm. Boswell and his successors the Masters or Wardens of the said Hospital aforesaid for ever, to be held of us, our heirs and successors in pure and perpetual alms. Nevertheless we will and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do constitute and ordain that neither these Letters Patents, nor anything in the same contained, shall extend to give power or authority to the aforesaid Wm., or any of his successors, of giving, granting, demising or assigning the aforesaid lands, tenements or hereditaments above-mentioned by these presents to be granted, or any or either of them, to any person or to any persons in use, possession, or reversion, for any greater or longer state or states, term or terms, than for the term of *three lives*, or twenty-one years in possession—(anything in these presents contained, or any use, custom, thing or matter whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding).

It is expressly stated however that this grant does not empower the Master or his successors to sell or alienate the property of the Hospital, or to lease it for more than 21 years or three lives.

The profits are to be used for benefit of the sick poor and orphans according to the intention of the first founder.

The right of the Bishop of Lincoln to appoint the Master, whenever a vacancy occurs, is confirmed.

And that all and singular the said fines, rents, issues, revenues and profits of the lands, tenements and hereditaments shall be used and disposed only for the reception and refreshment of sick poor and orphans (perpetually ailing and lepers excepted) and other necessary burdens and expenses of the Hospital aforesaid, according to the true intention of the first founder, and of the benefactors of the same, after the custom of time past, and to no other intents or purposes. Furthermore in order that the office or place of Master or Warden of the Hospital aforesaid be always supplied with honest men fit to carry out these things, of our special favour and of our certain knowledge, we have given and granted and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, give and likewise grant and ratify and confirm by these presents to the Bishop of Lincoln and his successors, the Bishops there for the time being, power and authority from time to time as often as the place or office happens to be vacant, to nominate, elect, promote and admit any person who is a graduate, and able and fit for the office or place of Master or Warden of the Hospital aforesaid—to do and carry out all and singular duties pertaining to the same according to the true

The Master shall hold office for life, unless removed for bad government or other reasonable cause. intentions of these presents; to continue in this office for the term of his natural life, unless in the meanwhile, for bad government or for any other just and reasonable cause, he shall be removed by the Bishop of Lincoln for the time being.

Every new Master on his appointment, shall take an oath to discharge his office faithfully and also oaths of acknowledgment of royal supremacy and allegiance. We will also and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, ordain that every Master or Warden of the Hospital aforesaid from time to time elected, before being admitted to execute his office, shall take a corporal oath upon God's Holy Gospel to discharge his office well and faithfully according to the true intention of these presents, and the oaths by the laws and statutes of this realm provided, as well for acknowledging the royal supremacy, as for the allegiance and fealty to us, our heirs and successors to be fulfilled; which oaths are to be taken before the Bishop of Lincoln for the time being, or some other person by him, as is aforesaid, appointed. To which Bishop, or some other person by him appointed, as is aforesaid, we give and grant by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, full power and authority to offer and administer such oaths, as is aforesaid, to the Master or Warden of the Hospital aforesaid, without any further warrant or commission in that behalf to be procured or obtained. And although express mention, etc. (3*)

The oaths to be taken before the Bishop of Lincoln, or his lawful deputy.

In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters Patents to be made. Witness the King at Canbury, July 6th, in the sixth year of our reign. (4)

The new charter makes no mention whatever of Wm. Wake, and speaks of Wm. Boswell as Master of the Hospital. There is no doubt however that Wm. Wake still acted as Master, and continued to do so till 1638, when he resigned in favour of his great nephew, George Wake.

Shortly before his resignation he made his will, which is dated June 1st, 1637. He leaves "to the two Co-bretheren of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton twentie shillinges apeice, and to each of the Poore of the same Hospitall five shillings." (5)

(3*) In the Patent Roll the grant ends thus. In the actual Charter the whole clause is set out in full, and reads as follows:—

"Although express mention is not made in the present letters concerning the true yearly value, or the certainty of the premises, or concerning other gifts or grants made to the aforesaid Wm. before these times; or notwithstanding any statute, act, etc. previously had, made or provided to the contrary."

This Charter was stolen, but was discovered by the late Mr. George Nichols of Northampton, in a second-hand book-shop in London. It was purchased by Mr. Nichols, and is now among his papers.

(4) Patent Roll, 6, Charles I., part I., No. 8.

(5) P.C.O., 18 Twisse. The Will was not proved till Feb. 10th, 1645—6.

In 1638 Wm. Wake resigned the Mastership, and was succeeded (30th June) by his great-nephew, George Wake, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. George Wake's career as Master was destined to be a chequered one. Four years after his accession to office the Civil War between Charles I. and his Parliament broke out, and as Wake was a Royalist, and Northampton was one of the chief strongholds of the Parliamentary party, he was promptly deprived of his Mastership. The management of the Hospital was placed in the hands of Francis Rushworth (6) and Joseph Sergeant (7), who received the rents, and paid the almspeople their allowances. This state of things continued for about four years, but on the surrender of Oxford, June 24th, 1646, Wake determined to compound for his estates with the Parliamentary authorities.

Accordingly on August 20th, 1646, he presented the following petition :—

“ To the honorable the comittee for compounding with Delinquents. The humble peticon of George Wake, Fellow of Magdalen College, in Oxford.

Sheweth that being fellow of Magdalen Colledge aforesaid your peticoner did there abyde during the place was a Garrison for the Kinge, and did there adhere to the Kinges party, for which his estate is sequestred. That he was in Oxon at the rendicon yereof, and is comprised within the Articles then made. His humble desire therefore is that you wilbe pleased to admitt him to a favorable composicon according to the said Articles. And he shall ever pray, etc.

GEORGE WAKE.” (8)

Annexed to this petition is a list of his estates :—

“ A particuler of the estate, reall and personall, of Geo. Wake, of Magdalen Colledge in Oxon, for which he desires to compound. He is seized of an estate during terme of his life of the *Mastership of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton*, which in tymes of peace was worth thirty-five pounds or thereabouts.

He is seized of an estate during life of one annuity yssuing out of Sir John Wake's lands in Hartwell, in the county of Northampton, of tenn poundes per annum.

He is seized of a civilians place (fellowship) in Magdalen Colledge aforesaid worth per annum twenty-five pounds or thereabouts. He is also seized of bookes, bedding, chayres and other utensalls, with his weareing cloathes, in all to ye vallue of forty pounds or thereabouts.

20th Aug., 1646.

GEORGE WAKE.” (9)

(6) Francis Rushworth was Bailiff of Northampton in 1635, and Mayor in 1643.

(7) Joseph Sergeant was Chamberlain in 1637, and Mayor in 1644.

(8) Domestic State Papers. Interregnum, G. Vol. 192, f. 918.

(9) Interregnum, G, Vol. 192, f. 918.

A clerk has added the following note : " Received 20 Augusti, 1646, and at the same time [the petitioner] presented a Passe under the Generall's [Fairfax] hand, dated the 24th of June, 1646.

14^o Nov. Referred to ye Comittee."

The Committee met on Nov. 14th, and agreed to remove Wake's sequestration ; but a request was made to them, by a certain John Ash, that the Hospital rents might be received by those that had formerly received them [Rushworth and Sergeant] in order that the poor may be paid, and the overplus " which was formerly ye benefitt of ye Master may be reserved till ye Parliament make further order." (10)

A note in the Order book of the Committee for compounding, dated 5th December, 1646, shews that Wake's fine was fixed at £14, at $\frac{1}{10}$ th. (11)

This however did not include the Mastership of St. John's Hospital, as is shewn by the following letter, dated 29th December, 1646 :—

" Gentlemen, There hath lately appeared before this Comittee George Wake of (blank) in ye county of (blank) with whome wee have proceeded to compound upon ye Articles of Oxford for any estate as wee thought within our rules, but as to ye Mastership of ye Hospitall of St. John inserted in his particuler, wee did exempt the same, as conceyveing it was not in our power to compound for it, nor in ye interest of ye parliament to permitt any person who had appeared disaffected to their proceedings to bee admitted to hold places of that nature. You are therefore to pay unto Francis Rushworth and Joseph Sargent, ye partyes formerly entrusted to receyve ye same, the allowance made to ye poore, and to detayne the surplus in their hands to be accountable for the same as it shall be required, notwithstanding any pretence that can be made by ye said George Wake." (12)

A month later (23rd January, 1646—7) Joseph Sergeant writes to Richard Andrew, of London : " I send you vouchers of my accounts. £21 paid to people in whose houses wounded were quartered. I do not send you vouchers for the £26 paid weekly (13) for the poor of St. John's Hospital, it being a thing known to town and county." (14)

About this time (apparently in March, 1646—7), the Co-brothers, alms-people, and tenants of the Hospital signed the following petition on behalf of their Master, George Wake.

(10) *Interregnum*, G, Vol. 192, No. 923.

(11) *Ibid*, G, Vol. 3, f. 316.

(12) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 232, No. 130. There is another copy of this order in *Interregnum*, G, vol. 3, f. 354.

(13) *Viz.*, £26 per annum, paid weekly.

(14) *Domestic State Papers*. Addenda, DXXXIX., 345.

“To the honourable the Knights and Burgesses of the Parliament for the Countie and towne of Northampton.

The humble peticon of the Poore of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton.

Humbly sheweth,

That the Mastershipp of the Hospitall hath bene very long in the name of the Wakes, who have in their severall Mastershipps done much good to the House, and not any of that name ever wronged the House, nor anye of ye poore that wee ever heard of. That Mr. William Wake, late Master and predecessor of Mr. George Wake, in whose behalfe wee become Petitioners, was rather a Founder of the House than a Master ; yt he espended out of his owne estate more money in law suites to maintayne the rights of the Hospitall, than would buye a revenue of more than the Mastershipp thereof is. That Mr. George Wake our late Master never wronged ye House, nor defrauded the poore, but hath upon all occasions beene charitable to them above their allowance. Yet notwithstanding wee are informed by some of the Towne of Northampton that wee shall have him taken from us, which wee hope will never bee, and therefore our humble petition is that it would please your Honors to restore our late Master, Mr. Wake, who was sequestred for his living in Oxford only, and since, to our knowledge, hath had many false aspersions layd on him.”

There are two copies of this petition among the Domestic State Papers in the Public Record office. The second is signed by the two Co-brothers (Matthew Johnson and Samuel Preston), ten almspeople and a number of the tenants of the Hospital estates. (15)

On March 13th, 1646—7, George Wake's case was brought before another set of Commissioners—viz., “the Comittee of the House of Comons for complaints touching the breach of Articles.” After carefully considering the case they came to the following decision :—

“Whereas Mr. George Wake, Fellow of Magdalen Colledge in Oxford, hath by his humble peticon to this Comittee desired to be admitted to compound (according to the Articles of Oxford) for ye Mastershipp of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton, which hee holds by graunt from Sir Wm. Boswell relating to a graunt under ye Greate Seale of England, bearing date VI^{to} Caroli (1630). This Comittee haveing taken the said grant into consideracon, and perused the said grant from his Majesty and Sir William Boswell, together with the XIth Article of the said Articles of Oxford, by which all persons therein

(15) Interregnum, G, vol. 192, No. 911 ; and Ibid, vol. 192, No. 916.

comprised (except persons by name excepted from pardon) are to bee admitted to compound for their estates reall and personall under or lyable to sequestracon ; upon the whole matter it is resolved upon the question, that it is the opinion of this Committee that ye said Master-shipp of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton, is a reall estate, which (by the said XIth Article of ye said Articles of Oxford) is compoundable for, according to the said Articles, and yt ye said Mr. George Wake, having made it appeare to bee his estate, ought to [be allowed to] compound for the same accordingly. And yt this be reported to ye House, and in ye interim Mr. Wake to have a cobby of this order to present to ye Committee of Lords and Comons for composicons at Goldsmith's Hall.

R. KNIGHTLEY." (16)

Acting upon this decision, Wake wrote on April 5th, to the Committee at Goldsmith's Hall, forwarding a copy of the decree, and suggesting a method by which he might compound for his Mastership :—

"Since the time of your petitioner's sequestracon there are 3 persons put into ye Hospitall more than the foundation allowed, which hee would in noe wise displace. He humbly prays that ye maintenance of the three supernumerary people may be accepted in lieu of his Fine for the same. And that for ye rest of his estate, specified in his particuler, they would bee pleased to accept of the fine formerly sett. [viz., £14]." (17)

The matter was referred to a Sub-Committee, and Wake's offer was eventually accepted.

On June 24th, 1647, the Commissioners for compounding with Delinquents sitting at Goldsmith's Hall, wrote to the sequestrators for the County of Northampton, to this effect :—

"Whereas George Wake, Fellow of Magdalen Coledge in Oxford, hath submitted to a Fyne ymposed on him for his Delinquency, according to the Rules and proporcons sett and confirmed by both howses of Parliment, and hath payd one moyety of his said Fyne into the Treasury of this Committee, and secured the remainder. These are therefore (by vertue of the late Ordinance of Parliament of the sixth day of February last) to order and require all persons whatsoever whom it may concerne to forbear all proceedings upon the sequestracon of the estate reall and personall of the sayd George Wake, compounded for according to a particuler delivered under his hand (a cobby whereof is

(16) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 192, No. 913.

(17) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 192, No. 907. There is another copy of this petition in *Interregnum*, G, vol. 127, No. 47.

herewith sent you). But if there shalbe any further estate discovered, not menconed in the sayd particuler, the same is to be sequestred untill it shalbe compounded for.

And you are alsoe to permitt and suffer the sayd George Wake to receive and enjoy all the rents and profitts of the estate menconed in the sayd particuler, due and payable since the twentyeth day of August, at which tyme he entred his name as a compounder (according to the Articles agreed upon at the surrender of Oxford) in as full and ample manner as the sayd George Wake hath heretofore enjoyed the same.

And whereas Frauncis Rishworth and Joseph Sergeant had an order from this Committee to dispose of the rents and profitts of the *Maistershipp of the Hospitall of St John's* incerted in the sayd George Wake his particuler, These are to require them to pay unto the said George Wake or his Assignes all such arrears of rent due to the said Hospitall, as are not payd in to the use and for the benefitt of the poore there, And suffer the sayd George Wake peaceably to enjoy the same Mastershipp as formerly he hath done before he became a Delinquent (any lettre or order from this Committee to the contrary notwithstanding). Provided alwayes that the sayd *George Wake doe sue forth a pardon under the Great Seale* within six weekes after his composicon shalbe allowed of by both Howses of Parliament." (18)

The matter however did not end here. During the following winter the Mayor and Corporation made a determined attempt to eject George Wake, and to get the management of the Hospital into their own hands.

At a meeting of the Northampton town Assembly held on December 17th, 1647, it was "agreed and ordered that Mr. Wm. Knight (18*) and Mr. John Gifford (18†) shall fourthwith repaire to London at the chamber charge, to complain of the miscarriages of Mr. Wake in the lands belonging to St. John's Hospitall against the ordinance of Parliament." (19)

The mission of Messrs. Knight and Gifford evidently did not produce the desired effect, for early in April, 1648, we find that two more letters were written by the Corporation of Northampton on the subject of George Wake. The first reads as follows :—

"To the right honorable the Commissioners for compounding with Delinquents sitting at Gouldsmith's Hall, London.

(18) Interregnum, G, vol. 127, No. 49 ; there is another copy of this letter in Interregnum, G, vol. 232, No. 131.

(18*) Wm. Knight was Mayor in 1626 and 1635.

(18†) John Gifford was Mayor in 1628, 1636, and 1642.

(19) Northampton Orders of Assembly, Vol. II., f. 100.

The humble peticon of the Mayor and Aldermen, Bayliff's and Burgers of the towne of Northampton,

Humbly sheweth,

That your peticoners did formerly present to your honours that Mr. George Wake, a delinquent, under pretence of a composicon made for his estate, did assume to himselfe a power to receive Rents and lett and sett leases belonging to ye Hospitall of St. John's in this Towne, and still goes on soe to doe, and hath warned a Court of Survey for ye said Hospitall to be held on Thursday ye thirteenth of this present April, requiring all tenants to bring their leases and rents and arreares of rente to him, and hath raised great somes of money to himselfe thereby, and soe persists to doe to ye great prejudice of the said Hospitall, The Revenues whereof (if duely employed) might serve to ye maintenance of many pore distressed people and maymed souldiers. Your Peticoners (taking notice of a late vote in your honorable Hows of Comons touching offices and places of trust to such as clayme under pretence of Oxford Articles, or anie other, and having understood that ye said George Wake was not admitted to compound for the said Hospitall) humbly crave yt your honors would bee pleased to prohibit ye said Mr. Wake from keeping his said court or receving rente or setting leases untill ye case may fully bee heard and determined." (20)

Any impartial reader, who has perused the previous letters and orders, will see at once that Wake was acting strictly within his rights, and that the statement of the petitioners, that he had not been admitted to compound, was quite untrue. This was evidently pointed out to the Mayor and Aldermen, for a day or two later they wrote a second letter, setting forth the whole history of the case (this time more accurately), and endeavouring to prove that Wake's title to the Mastership was defective. The letter concludes in these words :—

“ They humbly conceive that ye said George Wake hath noe good title to the said Mastership, nor hath he compounded for the same with your honours, his whole Fyne being but £14, and the said Mastership valued in his particuler at £35 per annum. The towne and places adjacent are extreame full of maymed souldiers, and poore widowes made by these warrs, beinge continually infested with the Garrisons of Banbury and others neare adjoyninge, and know not such hopefull way for their releife as the proffitts of ye said Hospitall fallinge so happily into ye Parliaments dispose. They most humbly beseech your honours that if the said George Wake have a good title, and you shall think fitt to admitt him to compound for the said Mastership (in both which they

humbly desire they may be heard) they may be ordered to pay the said £35 per annum to ye said George Wake, whilst he continues Master, and that the Residue of the proffitts thereof may be employed by them for the releife and maintenance of the poore, accordinge to the foundacon without divertinge any part thereof to any private uses." (21)

On April 14th the matter came before the Committee, who made the following order: "Give thes men, and George Wake 14 dayes to be heard at this Committy; and him to cease his survey, and ye tenants to kepe ye rents till further order." (22) In an order book of the same date (April 14th) we find that Friday, April 28th, was fixed for the hearing of the case. (23) The enquiry was evidently adjourned to May 5th, when the "Commissioners for compounding with Delinquents" passed the following resolution:—

"Ordered in ye case of Mr. George Wake concerning ye Hospitall by him desired to be compounded for, that ye same bee particulerly reported to ye house for their resolution. And Mr. Reading (Mr. Wake's Councill being by) do peruse ye pattent and deedes by which hee holds ye same and consider what hee hath in ye same, and report it to this Comittee, and that then (if ye Comittee shall not see fitt to determine it) the same shalbe offered to ye house. That in ye meane tyme Mr. Wake shall not act as Master, but ye gentlemen formerly appointed by authority of Parliament shall take care of ye poore of ye Hospitall untill ye case bee determined." (24)

Mr. Reading, according to his instructions, examined the Patents and deeds and two months later presented his report. It is dated July 5th, 1648, and runs as follows:—

"According to your order of the 5th of May, 1648, in the case of George Wake concerning the Mastership of the Hospitall of St. Johns in Northampton, I have, in the presence of Mr. Watson, being Mr. Wake's Councill, perused ye Patents and Evidences by which Mr. Wake holds the said Hospitall and doe finde,

That the Hospitall in an ancient foundacon for the reliefe of poore people, and the Mastership is of the presentacon of the Bishopp of Lincolne.

That Francis [Dee] late Bishop of Peterborough, by his lettres of admission under his episcopall Seale, bearing date ye 30th of June, 1638, did admitt the said George Wake to the said Mastership, being

(21) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 108, No. 109.

(22) *Ibid.*

(23) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 4, f. 199.

(24) Order Book for compounding. *Interregnum*, G, vol. 4, f. 200. There is another copy of this Order in *Interregnum*, G, vol. 127, No. 51.

then voyd by the resignacon of Wm. Wake, late incumbent thereof, to which the said George Wake was presented by John [Williams] Bishop of Lincolne, true and undoubted Patron of that Howse. And that John Quarles, Archdeacon of Northampton, granted his lettres of Induction under his Seale the same 30th of June, 1638. By virtue whereof the said George Wake was inducted and putt in actuall possession thereof by Nathaniell Yorke, one of the Co-brethren of the said Hospitall, the second of July, 1638.

That Sir William Boswell, Knight, by his indenture dated 1st Sept., 1638, recyting a former presentacon, granted to him by the said Bishop of Lincolne, of the Mastership dated the 7th of June, 1630, (sic !) and reciteing letters Patents of the King bearing date 6th July, 1630, whereby the said Hospitall is erected, founded, established and confirmed by the name of ye Hospitall of St. Johns, Northampton, of the foundacon of King Charles. And the said Sir William Boswell is made Master thereof for his life. The said Sir Wm. Boswell by the said Indenture grants, assignes and setts over all his estates therein to the said George Wake.

That the said Mastership was sequestred for the delinquency of the said George Wake

That the said George Wake peticoned here the 20th of August, 1646, to be admitted to compound upon Oxford Articles, and delivered in his particular, viz.,

An Annuity for life of £10.

Bookes and Apparel, £40.

The said Mastership per annum, £35, or thereabouts.

A civilians place in Magdalen College in Oxford, per annum, £25.

He compounds here the 5th of December, 1646, for the said annuity of £10, and for the Bookes £4, but no composicon was entered upon the said Mastership of the Hospitall, nor fellowship in Oxford. I doe conceive Mr. Wake hath an estate of freehold for his life in the said Mastership, being thereunto (as I conceive) legally admitted, instituted and inducted.

That the vote of the House of Comons of the 23rd of March, 1647 [1647—8], is that no persons which are to compound within the Articles of Oxford, ought to compound for offices of power or trust, or the profitts apperteyning to them. And the ordinance of both Howses of ye 20th of June, is that Oxford Articles shalbe duly and effectually observed in all things.

And whether upon this whole case you shall think fitt to admitt him to compound for the said office of Mastership, or not, I humbly leave to your honorable consideracon.

JO. READINGE." (25)

This report was received by the Committee for compounding on July 7th, and on the same day they granted a permit to Mr. Wake to attend the Court. It is thus worded :—

“ According to an ordinance of both houses of Parliament of the 16th day of June last, wee doe hereby give lycence to George Wake to contynue within the citties of London and Westminster, or elsewhere within the late lynes of comunicacon, or within twenty myles distant from the said lynes to attend his composicon during the space of thirty dayes soe as hee prosecute the same to effect without delay on his part.” (26)

This permit was rendered necessary by the fact that the second Civil war had just broken out, and all Royalists were naturally regarded with suspicion.

On July 21st the Commissioners for compounding referred the case once more to the Committee for complaints upon Articles, requesting them to report the case of Mr. George Wake (Master of St. John's Hospital), to the House of Commons, with all convenient speed, and enjoining “ that in the meane tyme the order of this Comittee of the 5th of May, do stand in force and bee observed.” (27)

Meanwhile the Corporation of Northampton had not been idle, as is shewn by the following extracts from the records of the town Assembly.

“ 17th July, 1648. Inprimis at this Assemblie Mr. Knight and Mr. Gifford brought in a bill of charge and expences they were at in their travailing to and from London, and in their folowing of the cause of St. John's Hospitall in the behalfe of the towne, which bill cometh to ix^{li}. xiiii^s. viii^d., and is approved of, and ordered by this Assemblie to be paid out of the Chamber.

Now it is agreed that Mr. Mayor and Mr. Gifford shall also fourth-with travell to London to folowe the cause in Goldsmithes Hall, London, then to be heard upon Friday next about St John's Hospitall, and present a peticon in the behalfe of the Corporacon, that the managing of the Hospitall, and lands to it, may be disposed of in suche

(25) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 192, Nos. 905 and 906.

(26) *Interregnum*, G, vol. 232, No. 132.

(27) *Ibid*, G, vol. 4, f. 212. Given also in G, vol. 223, No. 133.

hands, whoe shall acte for the goode of the poore, and give accompt yearlie ; and this to be pursued by them at the Chamber charge." (28)

The Committee of the House of Commons evidently took some time to make up their minds, for it was not till November that the case of George Wake was finally decided. On the 23rd of that month the Commissioners for compounding decreed "that Mr. Wake shalbee admitted to ye Hospitall of St. John's in Northampton to enjoy ye same together with ye rest of his estate, paying ye fine formerly sett, and alloweing to ye two supernumerary almes men as formerly hee offered to this Comittee at ye tyme of his composicon." (29)

Four days later (Nov. 27th) the whole matter was finally disposed of. A letter was addressed by the Commissioners for compounding to the sequestrators of the town and county of Northampton, and all others whom it may concern. It was couched in the following terms :—

"Whereas Mr. George Wake haveing formerly compounded for his estate upon the Articles of Oxford, did likewise incert in his particuler, exhibited to this Comittee, the Mastership of the Hospitall of St. John's in the towne of Northampton, concerneing which there hath bin hitherto scruple made by this Comittee, whether the said Mr. Wake were by the Articles to be admitted into that place upon a Fine proportionable to the profitts thereof.

Now for as much as by the report of the Sub-Comittee, to whose examinacon the same hath bin referred, it doth appeare that the said Mr. Wake hath a reall estate in the same which this Comittee doe adjudge to fall within the Letter of the said Articles. It is therefore ordered yt the said George Wake shall be admitted to compound for the said place and Mastership, and in lieu of ye Fine to be imposed on him for the same, he shall, according to his former offer to this Comittee make addicon of two supernumerary poore, which hee shall receive, and to whom hee shall make equall allowance with the rest of the poore of yt Hospitall, and continueing those two already placed there by Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Rushworth, and shall from tyme to time hereafter, as the same shall grow voyd, supply their new roomes with other capeable of reception there.

And thereof all Comittees, sequestrators, and other officers are to take notice, and are required to permitt the said George Wake quietly and without disturbance to enjoy the same, with all ye profitts thereof, as fully as he hath ever heretofore done (except only to the allowance

(28) Northampton Orders of Assembly, vol. 2, f. 102.

(29) Interregnum, G, vol. 5, f. 28.

of the two supernumeries afore menconed) and to receive all such rents and profitts therupon due since the 20th of August, 1646 (at which tyme he entered his name as a compounder, according to the said Articles), as have not bin paid for ye use and benefit of ye poore to Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Rushworth, who were by former orders of this Committee entrusted herein, and for so doeing this shall be their warrant." (30)

For four years Wake was allowed to remain in peace, but in the summer of 1653, his troubles began again.

Among the original Manuscripts in the Hospital chest is one entitled "Dr. Wake's case," which sets forth the whole story of his troubles. We give it here verbatim :—

"The Hospitall of St. John's in Northampton is of ancient foundation, founded by the Archdeacon of Northampton to find a Master, 2 preists, and eight poore people.

The said Hospitall was in the time of H. 8, amongst other things, by a Comission out of the Chancery returned into the Court of Augmentacon.

The said Hospitall was continued by H. 8, and hath beene continued by the Kinges and Queenes ever since.

The Bishop of Lincolne for the time beeing was alwise patron of the said Hospitall, and had the presentacon, or nominacon of the Master, and hath alwise since the first foundation presented.

The Bishop of Lincolne presented to the Mastership of the said Hospitall Arthur Wake, who continued Master divers yeares, and upon the resignation of Arthur Wake, a succeeding Bishop of Lincolne presented William Wake to be Master, which William, in the time of King James, purchased a licence of Mortmain, and augmented the revenue of the house, and increased the allowance of the poore.

The said William Wake continued Master many yeares, and resigned his Mastership into the hands of the Bishop of Lincolne (Williams). The same Bishop upon yt resignation presented George Wake, then fellow of Mag. Coll. in Oxon., and Master of Arts, nor hath any under the degree of Master of Arts beene Master of ye place.

George Wake was upon the presentation of the Bishop of Lincolne admitted and inducted into the said Hospitall, ye 2nd of July, 1638, and quietly enjoyd the same till, for his beeing in Oxon. when the

) Interregnum, G, vol. 5, f. 30.

late King made it a garrison, the revenue of the Mastership was sequestred by order of Parleament.

The said George Wake was in Oxon., it being the place of his aboade, at the surrender of the place to the Lord Fairfax, and had the benefitt of the Articles of that surrender, upon which Articles the said Mr. Wake entered his name as a compounder at Goldsmith's Hall the 10th [20th] of yt August, 1646, and put in a perticuler of his estate, the greatest part thereof was the Mastership of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton.

The Towne of Northampton had then the revennue of the Mastership, who opposed the said Mr. Wake as much as they could in his composition.

The Comittee for complaints upon Articles, sittinge in the Court of Wards at Westminster, after much debate, adjudged the same Mastership a real estate within the letter of the 11th Article of the Articles of Oxon., and to be compounded for.

Heereupon the said Mr. Wake was admitted to compound for ye same, and did compound for the said Mastership, and had his discharge, and his sequestration of the said Hospitall taken off, the 27th of November, 1648, and hath been in quiett possession of the said Mastership ever since.

That on Saturday the 18th of June, 1653, an order was left at Mr. Wake's house to appeare before the Comittee sitting at Haberdasher's Hall, London, to answeare to the petition of Nicholas Cheltenham preferd to that Comittee against him.

Heere upon the said Mr. Wake addressed himselfe to the Comissioners for reliefe upon Articles, by petition the 21st of June, 1653.

The Comissioners for releife upon Articles send an order the same day to the Comissioners at Haberdasher's Hall desiring that Comittees to signifie if there was any thinge before them to evidence that George Wake had lost or fortified [forfeited] the benefit of his Oxon Articles.

The Comissioners for Indemnitie at Haberdasher's signifie under five of the Comissioners hands, viz., Mr. R. Moore, Mr. John Carey, Mr. John Upton, Mr. John Reading, and Mr. Ruonis, and certifie the whole maner of his composition, and withall say there appeareth noething before them whereby George Wake had forfeited, or lost the benefit of Oxon. Articles.

After this Mr. Wake heard noe more of Cheltenham, but was in quiet possession, till in April last, some that hee sueth for the detaining

part of the possessions of the Hospitall, prevaile with one Goodman, theire kinsman (which Goodman hadd formerly put on Cheltenham to molest him) to endeouvre to get a grante from his Hignesse of the said Mastership.

That on the 26th of April last Mr. Wake petitioned his Highness, and to his petition anexed a copy of his discharge at Goldsmith's Hall." (31)

In a list of Commonwealth petitions now preserved in the Public Record office, is one dated 25th April, 1655, by which "George Goodman, prays the Mastership of St. John's Hospitall in Northampton." (32) There is no record of the answer, but it is quite clear from what follows that he was successful in his suit. (33)

The story of the vicissitudes through which the Hospital passed during the next five years is best told by two documents, formerly in private hands. The originals it is now impossible to trace, but copies were made by the Charity Commissioners in 1836, and printed in their report; and from this report we here reproduce them.

The first is undated, but was evidently written about the year 1658, and is addressed "to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seale of England."

"The humble Peticon of George Wake, Master of the Hospitall of St. John Baptist in the towne of Northampton.

Humbly sheweth, That your peticoner is duly intituled to the Mastership of the said Hospitall of St. John Baptist in the Towne of Northampton during his life which accordingly he hath enjoyed for the space of 20 years (34) last past.

That one George Goodman having forceably gotten possession of your Peticoners place, was by due course of law upon solemne judgment of the Upper Bench, last Trinity Terme, evicted, and your Peticoner imediatly restored to his possession by the Sheriffe.

After which judgment, and in hopes to prevent your Peticoner from having any benefitt by his execucon, the said Goodman obteyned a comission under the Great Seale to be directed to severall persons

(31) Original Manuscript in Hospital Chest.

(32) State Papers. Interregnum, I, vol. 92, No. 219.

(33) See page 22 "One George Goodman misinforming his late highness, obtained letters Patent for the place."

(34) He was instituted in 1638, so that this letter must have been written in or after 1658.

for visitacon of the Hospital, and enquiry into your peticoner's behaviour.

That by virtue of the said comission some of the Comissioners impanelled a jury, who upon the 14th of January last gave in their verdict, but by reason the same was not in forme, nor under their hands and seales, the said Comissioners adjourned till the 17th of March last, att which time the Inquisicon being drawn up in form, the jurors putt thereunto their hands and seales, and delivered the same in unto the said Comissioners, whereupon the jurors were discharged.

That afterwards, about 24th March last, Mr. John Mansell (35*), Mr. Henry Paynter, (35) Mr. Robert Mansell, (35*) 3 of the said Comissioners, gave notice under their hands and seales unto the tenants of the said Hospitall, that your peticoner was removed from his Mastership by them by virtue of the said comission, and thereby forbad the said tenants from paying their rents to your peticoner, but ordered them to pay them to the said George Goodman, the prosecutor, although the said Comissioners had no just grounds by the said Inquisicon for doing thereof, as by a copy of the said Inquisicon annexed appeareth.

That by colour of the said order the tenants refused to pay their rents to your Peticoner, whereby he is disabled to pay the almsmen their weekly allowances, who are not able to subsist without it; and the rents, if continued in the tenants hands, or payd to the said Goodman, are in danger of being lost. Your Peticoner therefore humbly prayes your Honours would be pleased to order that your Peticoner may receive the rents untill the proceedings had upon the said comission shall bee determined by your Honours, and that the said Comissioners may forthwith returne the said comission into this Court, that your Peticoner may take just excepcons thereunto, and your Peticoner will ever pray, etc."

(35*) *John Maunsell* of Thorpe Malsor, Esq., was the second but eldest surviving son of John Maunsell, Esq., of Chicheley, Bucks, who in 1622 purchased the Manor of Thorpe Malsor. The younger John was born at Chicheley 12th March, 1604—5, and was admitted to Lincoln's Inn 9th Nov., 1624. He died 2nd May, 1677, and was buried at Thorpe Malsor. His eldest son *Robert Maunsell* was born 15th January, 1627—8, and was admitted 3rd Nov., 1649, to Lincoln's Inn. He died without issue 27th May, 1705, and was buried at Thorpe Malsor, with a monument "*Heres laid up good, sincere, and prudent dust, kind, courteous, faithfull, mercifull and just.*" (See *Northamptonshire Families, V.C.H.*, pp. 229—230).

(35) Henry Paynter was son and heir of Wm. Paynter, of Northampton, Bachelor of Civil Law. He was baptized at All Saints' 9th April, 1592, and matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, 1st December, 1609. He was a Barrister at Law of the Middle Temple in 1619, and was executor to the Will of his brother-in-law, Edmund Bateman, of Shawell, Co. Leicester, in 1650. The date of his death is unknown.

Some one has added in another hand, "If the comission in this Peticon menconed bee fully executed, lett it be returned the first Monday in the next terme. J.L.S.C." [Probably for John Lisle (36), *sigilli custos*, viz., keeper of the Great Seal].

The second petition is also undated, and is addressed, not in this instance to the keepers of the Great Seal, but to the Houses of Parliament. The following is an abstract :—

"Petition of George Wake, D.C.L., Master of St. John's Hospital, to the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

Humbly sheweth, that petitioner was lawfully seized of the Mastership until he was sequestered for living in Oxford whilst it was a garrison for the King, and that he was admitted to compound for the same, as for a real estate, by the Articles of Oxford, and restored accordingly ; and enjoyed the same until one George Goodman *misinforming his late Highness* (37) that petitioner had no title thereto, obtained letters Patent for the place ; on which Major-General Boteler (38) and Mr. John Brown, (38*) Esq., in January, 1655 [1655—6], did warn petitioner to depart by 25th March and to leave the same to possession of George Goodman.

That petitioner offered to try the right of Goodman at the next Assizes, but that the Major-General insisted upon having possession first. That petitioner kept possession until 11th May when, between four and five o'clock in the morning Cornet Mewe and soldiers, under the Major-General's warrant, turned the petitioner, his wife and mother, three small children and servants out of the house, and put Goodman in possession, and kept petitioner a prisoner until he should go before a Master of Chancery to make oath that he would deliver up the writings of the Hospital, which he did ; and the writings were

- (36) John Lisle took a prominent part in the trial of Charles I. In 1649 he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal, and was placed on the Council of State. He held various offices in the Parliaments of 1654—9. At the Restoration he fled to Switzerland, and was murdered at Lausanne in 1664.
- (37) Cromwell died 3rd Sept., 1658, so that this petition must have been written after that date.
- (38) See foot note on page 23.
- (38*) John Brown, of Kettering, is mentioned (together with Major-General Boteler and John Maunsell, of Thorpe Malsor, and his son) in a curious paper, now preserved at the Public Record Office. It is a list (drawn up December 19th, 1655) of those magistrates who have persecuted the Quakers and "who have all along given the power unto the beast and have fought against the Lambe, and to this day thinke they doe God good servise in imprisoning his servantes, and abusing them contrary to the righteous law of God, and contrary to the Law of the nation." (Domestic State Papers. Interregnum, vol. 102. No. 50).

delivered to Alderman Spicer to await the issue of a trial ; but before the Assizes the Major-General ordered them to be delivered to Goodman.

That the action was tried ; on which an especial verdict was given, by which, after several arguments in the Upper Bench, it was judged that his Highness's letters Patent could pass nothing to Goodman, as petitioner had not forfeited since his composition.

That petitioner was put in possession, but that his writings were detained ; and that the Major-General threatened to put him out of possession again ; and that there had been a pretended visitation of the Hospital by which three of the Commissioners, waiving the jurors verdict (which cleared him), declared him removed from the Mastership, and returned their commission into the Chancery, signed by the Major-General and Mr. John Brown, although not present.

That three of the Commissioners were John and Robert Maunsell (both allied to the Major-General), and Mr. Paynter, a tenant of the Hospital, who withheld lands ; and that Goodman demanded the rents, and forbade the tenants to pay, alleging a new Patent. In tender consideration whereof, petitioner *prays that a period might be put to his troubles*, and that Parliament would take the same into consideration, and that petitioner might be relieved, etc.

No answer to this petition is recorded, but on the restoration of the Monarchy, which took place a few months later, the system of government by Major-Generals ceased, [and Wake's enemy Boteler (39) was removed from office. George Goodman also disappeared from the scene, and Wake was left in peace.

(39) Major-General Wm. Boteler, or Butler, is described by Professor Firth (*Last years of Protectorate*, I., 86) as "the most odious of all Cromwell's Major-Generals." Nothing is known about his origin, but he was living at Oundle from 1649 to 1657, and several of his children were baptized there. On August 9th, 1655, England was divided up into ten sections (afterwards raised to eleven) over each of which a Major-General was appointed. To Boteler was assigned the district comprising the counties of Northampton, Bedford, Rutland, and Huntingdon. The methods adopted by these Major-Generals varied much, but it seems agreed on all hands that the rule of Boteler was a very oppressive one.

On December 19th, 1655, the Quakers complained that he had come "with armed souldyers violently into a Freinds meeting, as they were waiting upon the Lord in Isham upon a fast, and drew them forth of the howse, and stroke them, and much thretned them yt he would brake up their meetings." This closely resembles his treatment of George Wake alluded to above.

Henry Lee, Town Clerk of Northampton, in his Manuscript History of the town, tells us that "Many ministers [were] turned out of their liveings, many victualling houses suppress in ye country by Major-Generall Butler."

In 1656 Boteler was elected M.P. for the County of Northampton, but this is hardly to be wondered at, if Lee's account of the election be true. He says:—

"The Ld. protector and his councill issued out writts to choose knights of the shire for ye county of Northampton, and two burgesses for this town of Northampton. The knights

to be chose at Kettering as appointed by Major-Generall Boteler upon ye 20th day of August. And they were chose upon Kettering Heath accordingly. *I was there* and see the whole business order'd and managed by Major-Generall Boteler: after ye Sherriffe had read ye writt ye Major named six, vizt., Sir Gilbert Pickering, *Himselfe* (Boteler), Mr. Crewe ye younger, The Ld. Claypole, James Langham, Esq., and Major Blake, and his way was in this manner—He first named Sir Gilbert Pickering and took a party of his own, and rod round ye heath cryeing “a Pickering—a Pickering”—till he came to ye Sherriffe, and there he ordered the Sherriffe to sett him downe as duely chose; and in like manner he did manage the same for ye other five successively one after ye other, and then with his party went off the heath, not takeing notice of Collonel Benson and his party wch were great and cryed up Knightley and other considerable persons of ye County.”

Like most of Cromwell's officers, Boteler was a staunch Independent. On Dec. 5th, 1656, he made a strong speech in the House of Commons against Naylor, the Quaker, who was brought before the House to answer a charge of blasphemy.

At the beginning of the following year (Jan. 22nd) he was one of the chief speakers on behalf of the Militia Bill, and fell foul of Harry Cromwell, the Protector's cousin.

At this very moment a suit was pending against him in the law courts for oppressive conduct in Northamptonshire (*Firth's Last Years of Protectorate I.*, 122), though the result has not been recorded.

Many of his letters to Secretary Thurloe are printed in Vols. III. and IV. of the Thurloe Correspondence.

At the Restoration Boteler sank into insignificance, but he did not on that account escape being attacked. For a time he was under nominal arrest, but on March 28th, 1663, an order was issued to Capt. Parry to discharge him, as it was ascertained that he was living quietly at Oatlands, and had taken the Oath of Allegiance. (Domestic State Papers).

In April, 1664, a licence was granted to him to pass into London with this sword, notwithstanding the proclamation.

In the year following, the old charges of misgovernment were brought up against him, and on August 29th, 1665, James Hicke informs Secretary Williamson that “the Lord General has sent to the Tower Major Butler who *exercised all imaginable afflictions on the King's subjects in Northamptonshire.*”

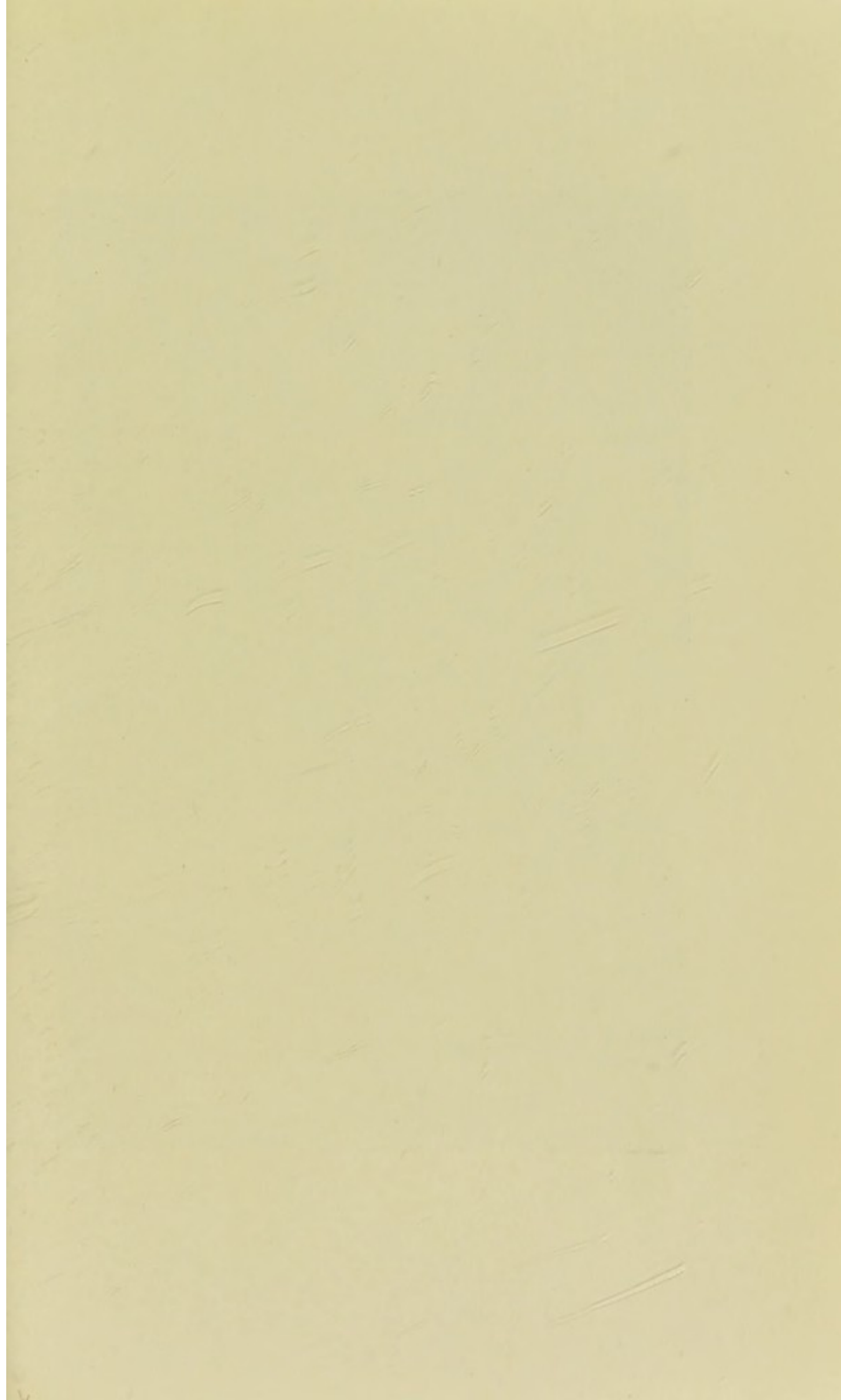
He remained in prison for over a year. On October 3rd, October 28th, and November 4th, 1665, he petitioned to be liberated or tried, or that at least an allowance of diet might be granted to him.

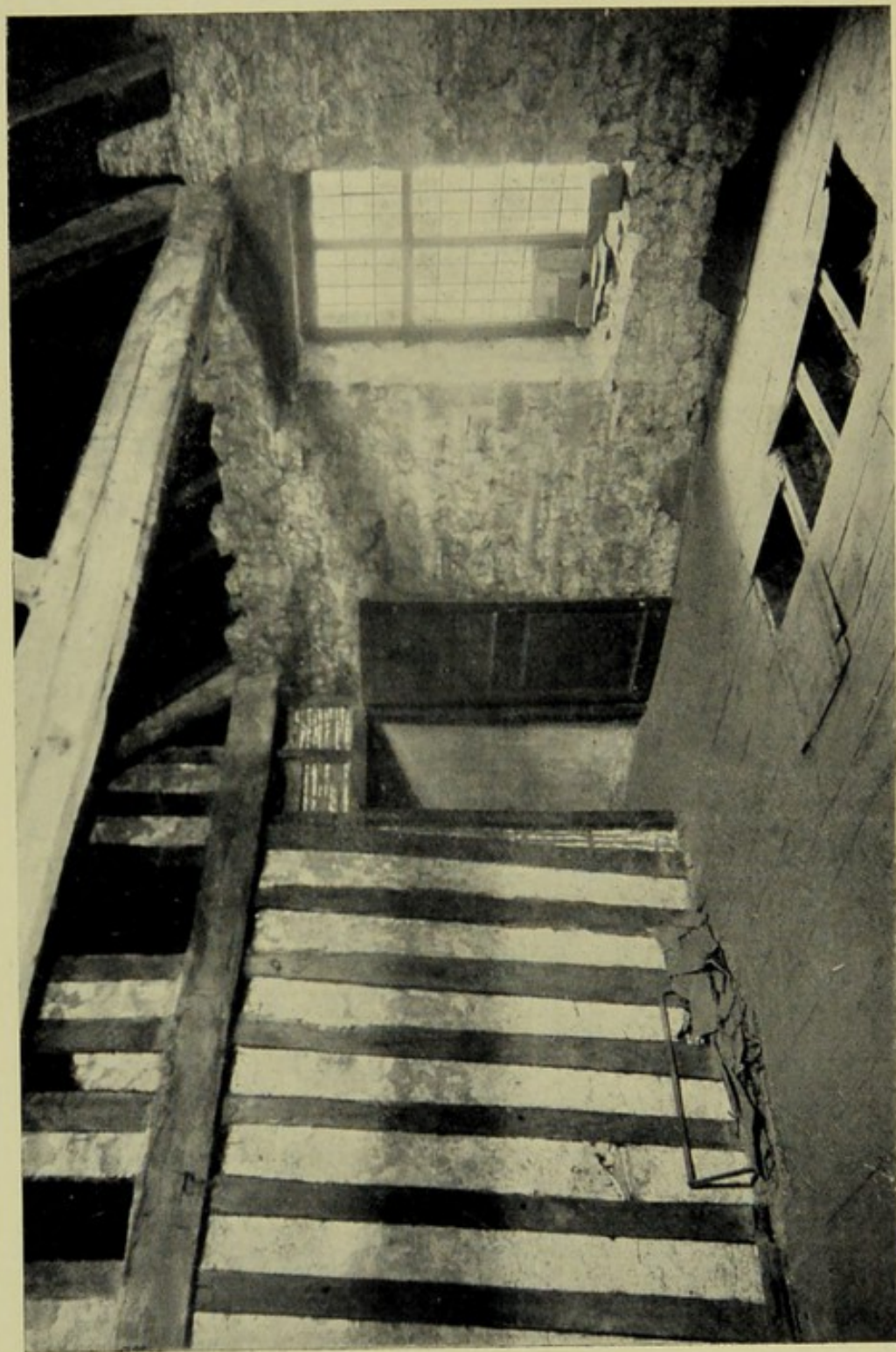
On June 13th, 1666, he writes to Lord Arlington begging him to use his influence on his behalf. He has now been in prison for ten months, and is guiltless of any plot against the King or Government.

In November of this year he was still in confinement, and his name occurs in a list of 38 persons imprisoned in the Tower. Ultimately he obtained his release, but he appears to have always been an object of suspicion to the Government.

In 1670 he was again in trouble—evidently for some breach of the Conventicle Act. On May 23rd of that year, Sir John Robinson writes to Secretary Williamson “The greatest person of noate amongst the *meeters* is Major Generall Butler;” and he goes on to mention the arrest of several preachers, under the Conventicle Act. On the following day he informs Williamson that “Major Generall Butler is secured, and Collonel King hath beene sought after.” (Domestic State Papers, vol. 275, ff. 173 and 178). The rest of Boteler's story is unknown.

(To be continued).





St. John's Hospital, Upper Floor of Domicile.

[Mr. G. S. Garrett.

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN, NORTHAMPTON.

BY THE REV. R. M. SERJEANTSON, M.A., F.S.A.

(Continued from page 24).

In 1665, a letter (dated 21st June), was sent by King Charles II. to the Archbishop of Canterbury, directing him to issue letters to all the Bishops of his province, bidding them send in a report as to the condition of all Hospitals in their respective dioceses "concerning the ill governing of which, and misemploying of their revenues, many complaints have been made." (1)

The Bishop of Peterborough accordingly reputed Simon Ford (2) (Vicar of All Saints, Northampton), Horatio Woodhouse, (3) and Francis Goodiar (4) to make enquiries as to the condition of the Northampton Hospitals.

With regard to St. John's Hospital they reported (23rd November, 1665), that Dr. Wake, the Master, had refused to give them any information, alleging by way of excuse that "the Bishop of Lincoln, for the time being, is the proper Visitor of the Hospital aforesaid; and therefore, he doth conceive it not fitting for him to give any further answer to the present Commissioners." (5)

They sent, however, two letters of complaint with regard to Dr. Wake's administration of the Hospital, which may thus be summarised.

Samuel Preston (6) (Co-brother of the Hospital), complained that the

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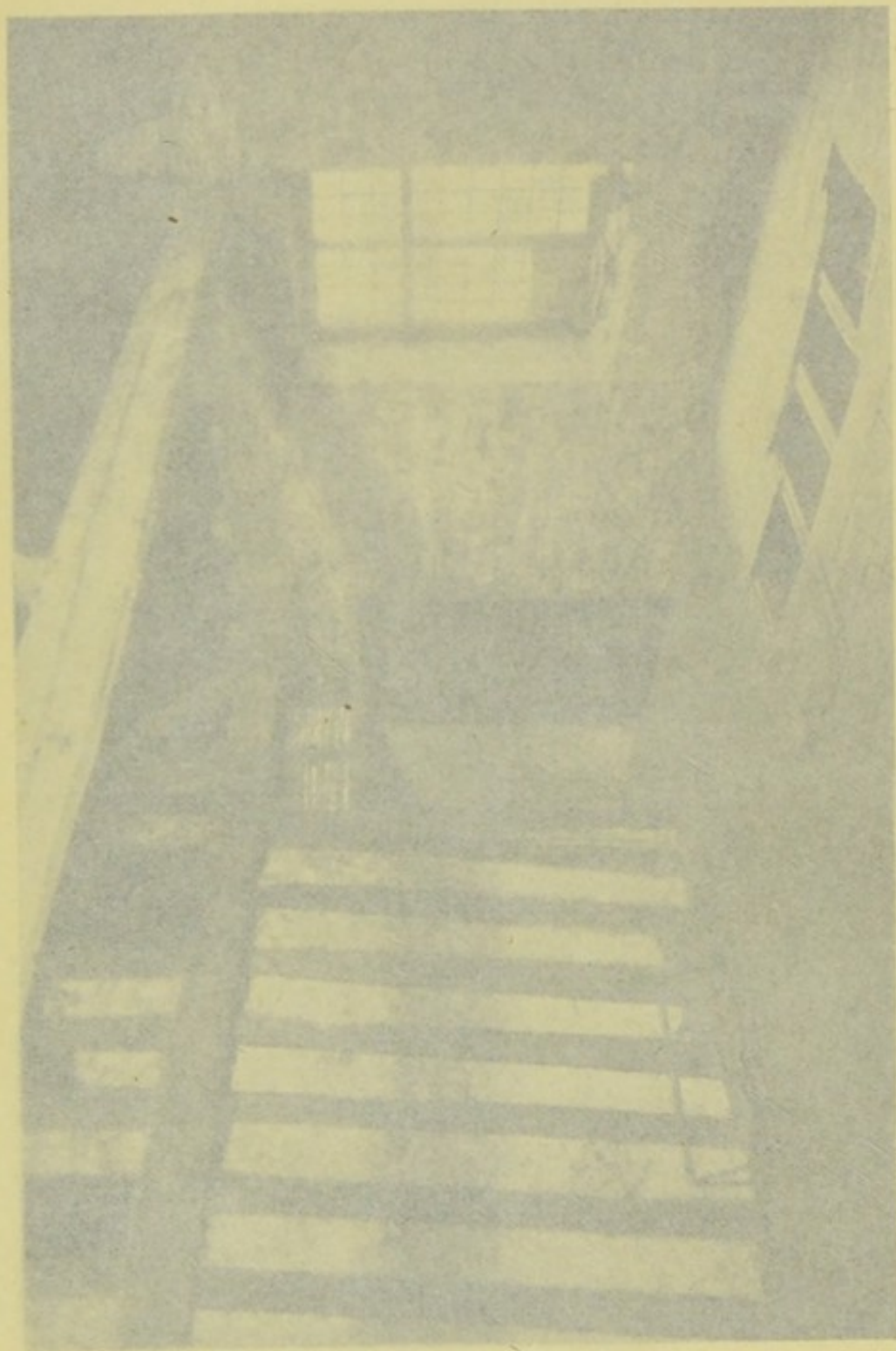
(2) Simon Ford was Vicar of All Saints 1659—1670.

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(4) Francis Goodiar was Rector of Courteenhall 1660—1678.

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(6) Samuel Preston (son of Wm. Preston, Rector of Cold Higham). Baptised at Cold Higham 1618 June, 1607. B.A. from All Souls College 13th February, 1629—30. Licensed as Schoolmaster of Blisworth 16th September, 1610. Curate of Blisworth 1611—17 (not Rector as stated by *Notices*). Ordained Priest at Peterborough 7th June, 1612. Perpetual Curate of Blisworth 20th June, 1624, till his death in 1666. Buried at Blisworth 24th June, 1666. Will dated 6th June, 1666, proved 27th October, 1666, at Northampton.



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Almspeople of the Hospital since 1st November, 1659, ought to have had 18 pence a week for their maintenance, and that they only received 1s. 2d. They were thus (according to his statement) above £40 in arrears since the time that this 18 pence weekly was allowed by the Visitors of the Hospital in 1657.

The Co-brethren ought to have two loads of wood apiece yearly out of Yardley Chase, but that he (the complainant) was nine loads in arrears. When he complained to the Master, Dr. Wake had answered that "he should never have any more." The Almspeople were also being defrauded in the same way, and Dr. Wake was selling the wood for his own profit.

Various leases had been sealed without the knowledge of the Co-brethren; and they had received no share of the fines made at such times, whereas they were entitled to from 10/- to 20/- at the sealing of every lease.

Most of the deeds and counterparts of leases made by the Master and Co-brethren were either lost or defaced; and many of the lands belonging to the Hospital had been unjustly sold or alienated by Mr. Wm. Wake, late Master there, during the last 50 years. (A list of these lands is given in full by the complainant).

There is no iron box with three locks and keys (whereof the Master and Co-brethren were each to have one) to keep the seal of the Hospital, as ordered by the last Visitors in 1657. The old trunk had been broken in pieces at Grafton House (7) when it was taken.

That Dr. Wake had promised an Almsman's place to a poor man: and then refused to admit him unless he paid £6 towards keeping him if he became old or lame.

This complaint is dated 19th August, 1665. It is only fair to Dr. Wake to say that at no time (except perhaps during the last three years of the Commonwealth) had the Almspeople received more than 1/2 a day.

The second complaint was from a certain John Ringrose (a former Co-brother) and reads as follows:—

"To the Right Rev. Joseph, Lord Bishop of Peterborough.

The humble petition of John Ringrose, (8) Clerk,

In all humbly intimateth That whereas, by the choice, and at the appointment of George Wake, D.C.L., and Master of the Hospital of

(7) Grafton Regis House was defended for the King by Sir John Digby and captured by Major-General Skippon on 24th December, 1643.

(8) John Ringrose was son of Francis Ringrose, Vicar of Pytchley (by his wife Mary Warner, of Dallington). He was baptized at Pytchley 28th February, 1613—4. He became Rector of Slapton in 1657. At the Bishop's Visitation of 1662 he "*exhibuit instrumentum sub publico sigillo subscriptum per Jo. Nye.*" He conformed in 1662 and held the living of Slapton till his death. He was buried at Slapton 29th November, 1668. He was also Curate of Abthorp from 1665 to 1668.

St. John, your petitioner officiated as Co-brother there by the space of two years and three quarters, (9) expecting the usual salary for it, but upon demand thereof was denied, discharged and discontinued ever since 1659.

In redress whereof your petitioner humbly refers to your lordship, or whomsoever it may concern, by whose impartial determination he willingly abides, and subscribes himself,

Your Lordship's, in all canonical obedience,

Most ready to observe,

JOHN RINGROSE." (10)

Among the papers in the Hospital chest is a document evidently drawn up at the time of this enquiry, which furnishes us with further particulars:—

“Articles exhibited against Georg Wake, the present Master or Warden of St. John Baptist Hospitall in ye Towne of Northampton in ye countie of Northton.

1. That ye said Georg Wake hath for a long tyme together neglected ye haveing two Coo-brothers to ye said Hospitall according as hee ought to have had.
2. That the said Georg Wake hath not duely and carefully kept and preserved the Deeds, evidences and writings belonging to the said Hospitall in a strong and sufficient coffer or chest with three sufficient locks and keyes thereto, to wit one lock or key for the Master's keeping, and the other two locks and keyes for each Coo-brother.
3. That ye said Georg Wake hath imbessiled and lost, caused or suffered to bee imbessiled and lost, or some waies made away, severall of the Deeds and evidences and writings belonging and relateing to the said Hospitall, whereby much of the rents and Revennewes thereof have for severall yeares past bene impared, lessened or lost.
4. That ye said Georg Wake hath for severall yeares withheld or detayned, or caused to bee withheld or detayned, from the Coo-brothers and poore of the said Hospitall, about thirty-five loads of wood which belongeth unto them, beeing heretofore given and allowed them as a provition for fireinge.

(9) He was a Co-brother from 1659—1662.

(10) Lansdowne MS., 991, f. 240.

5. That whereas a considerable and comfortable Revennew hath beene given and soe of right belongeth aswell unto the two Coo-brothers and poore of the said Hospitall, as to ye Master thereof, that hee the said Georg Wake hath withheld and deteyned, or caused to be withheld and deteyned, a great part thereof from ye said Coo-brothers and poore for severall yeares past.
6. That ye said Georg Wake hath not kept, preserved, maintayned and upheld the severall houses and buildings belonging to ye said Hospitall in good and sufficient repaire, but hath suffered severall of them to become very ruinous and to fall downe, to ye great prejudice and detriment of the said Hospitall.
7. That ye said Georg Wake hath either sold or by some unwarrantable way or meanes made away severall of the houses, lands or woods belonging to ye said Hospitall, contrary to any lawfull power given to him, or the intent of the donors thereof.
8. That ye said Georg Wake hath made or grawnted divers unwarrantable leases of severall of the houses and lands belonging to ye said Hospitall, without the joynt concurrence of the said two Coo-brothers.
9. That at such tyme when the said Georg Wake was requested to make discovery of such houses and lands which had beene likewise formerly unwarrantably sold or made away by one William Wake, uncle to ye said Georg Wake, and predicesor and former Master or Warden of the said Hospitall, That then hee the said Georg Wake did say, affirme, and sweare, that hee the said Georg Wake would not discover the same, but would rather begg for his livelihood with a dish under his arme then make any such discovery."

In 1674, Wm. Fuller, Bishop of Lincoln, issued a Commission to John Hammond, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and three others to visit the Hospital. The Bishop had intended to visit the place himself, but was prevented from doing so by ill-health. He therefore issued a Commission, because he learns from many persons that there are very many things in the Hospital, needing correction and reform, which without a visitation cannot be remedied. The Commissioners are instructed to visit without distinction the Master or Warden, the alms people and the officers of the House; and they are to inquire as to the life, morals, conversation and quality of each person ministering or dwelling (*degentium*) in the said Hospital.

The visitation was begun on August 15th, 1674, in the chapel (*capella sive oratorio*) of the Hospital, before John Hammond, Archdeacon of

Huntingdon, and John Foster, LL.D., Commissaries of the Bishop; and there appeared George Wake, LL.D. (the Master), John Howes (11) and Robert Stephens (12) (Co-brothers), Edward Day, Elizabeth Chadwick, Anne Ashbye, Sara Luck, Annie Farmer, Elizabeth Bates, Valentine Tebbot, and Bridget Dilly (Alms-people). The Visitors produced certain articles of enquiry, and ordered the Master, Co-brothers and Alms-people to answer the said questions in writing, and to bring their answers to the said Commissioners on Monday, August 17th, between the hours of two and four, and the visitation was then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday.

On the day appointed, the Master, Co-brethren and Alms-people appeared with their respective answers. Dr. Wake's was as follows:—

- (1). To the first article "with all due and humble submission to the said Right Reverend Father and His Commissioners in this Visitation, as farr as by Law hee is bound to submitt, and noe otherwise" he answers that "hee is Doctor of Lawes, and tooke that Degree in the University of Oxford, where hee was a student, and is Master of the said Hospitall of St. John Baptist articulate, and was presented to the same by the Right Reverend Father in God, John, then Bishop of Lincoln, patron of the said Hospitall, and instituted into the same by Francis, late Lord Bishop of Peterborough, and inducted into the said Hospitall by vertue of a mandate from John Quarles, Clerke and Master of Arts, the then Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Northampton; and of the said Hospitall hath been Master for theise thirty yeares last past and upwards, saving for three yeares or thereabouts, being in the Warres and Rebellion, whoe then was unjustly throwne out and ejected of the said Hospitall, for his Loyalty to the King, by one George Goodman."
- (2). To the second article he answers that there are belonging to the said Hospitall one man and seven women (all mentioned by name)—"all which have beene admitted into the said Hospitall by this Respondent without any gift or hope of reward, or contract with any person, which is the full number appointed to bee kept in the said Hospitall."
- (3). The tenements, woods, etc. belonging to the Hospital are leased to several persons according to ancient custom, "saving the Mansion House, barnes and appurtenances now in the possession of this respondent;" the revenues of the Hospital amount to about £80 a year, out of which the Master finds two Co-brethren or Priests, and eight poor people, according to the constitution of the Hospital.

(11) John Howes, M.A., was Rector of Abington 2nd November, 1652, till his death in June, 1685.

(12) Robert Stephens matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, 12th July, 1661, aged 18. B.A. and M.A. by accumulation 8th July, 1669. Rector of Wootton, Northampton, 16th May, 1667 till 1677.

- (4). There have been several fines paid for renewing leases, which have been applied to the repairing of the Chapel, and Master's House, and to the maintenance of the poor, and keeping of hospitality "as by the law and constitucon of the said Hospitall they ought to bee laid out."
- (5). He has counterparts of all leases, etc., and all such muniments as ever came into his hands relating to the Hospital (except such as were forced from him at his sequestration for his loyalty towards his majestie in the late times of rebellion) in his safe custody in a chest in his house in the said Hospital.
- (6). There are various quit rents payable out of the rents of the said Hospital (all mentioned in detail); and the annual net income of the Hospital amounts to about £80 a year: out of which the Master "weekley payes to each poore man and woman belonging to the said Hospitall, one shilling and twoe pence a weeke, which is twoe pence a weeke more apiece then hathe beene heretofore paid; which said salary is constantly paid every weeke, and alsoe tenn pounds a yeare to his two Co-brethren or Preists, besides sufficient fewell for the poore people in the said Hospitall."
- (7). The Hospital is not in debt to any one.
- (8). The sum of 20/- will be sufficient to put the Chapel and Hospital into good repair.
- (9). He is "very seldome abroad or non-resident, but hee is generally resident upon the said Hospitall."
- (10). "There are noe statutes belonging to the said Hospitall, nor ever were, that hee could heare of."
- (11). "Hee hath noe Auditor, but casteth up all his receipts and disbursements of the Hospitall himselfe, nor are there any officers, by patent or otherwise, appointed by him, except the two Co-brethren or Confrators may be accounted officers."

"And further this Respondent doth say that if hee hath done, committed, or omitted any act or thing for the which hee may bee charged or impeached, as Master of the said Hospitall, before the 25th day of March Anno Domini 1673, hee prayes the benefit of the late Act of Pardon and Oblivion, and all other Acts of Parliament heretofore made for his indemnity."

The replies of the Co-brethren and Almspeople are not recorded. The Commissioners having duly perused the various answers of the several parties, accepted those of the Almspeople; but they were not satisfied with the Master's and Co-brothers' replies, and with regard to them the

following decree was made :—“ That whereas the Master, Dr. Wake, and the Confraters have not fully answered to the articles exhibited to them, that they putt in a fuller answer to the said articles on the thirteenth day of October next betweene the houres of 9 and 12; and they admonished the said Dr. Wake that he then bring in a particular account of the fines already received, and alsoe a particular of all the lands, etc. belonging to the Hospital, and to whome, and for what tyme the same are lett, and what rents are reserved upon any lease, or payd for any of the said lands, tenements, woods, messuages and hereditaments.” The visitation was then adjourned till 9 o'clock on 13th October.

On the day appointed the Commissioners appeared between the hours of 9 and 10 in the Chapel (*Sacello*) of the Hospital, and adjourned the visitation till 2 p.m. in the Great Chamber of the Master's house. At which hour and place all appeared, and Mr. Lovell (13) (acting for the Bishop) set forth the Letters Patents of the king's foundation, etc.

Mr. Samuel Smith, of Northampton, declared that he had delivered certain writings to Dr. Wake concerning the Hospital of St. John “ which said writings were left at his house by Mr. Goodman.” [The intruded Master.] Mr. Goodman's affidavit was read to the same purpose. “ Dr. Wake confesses the writeings, and will give a particular of them.” Counsel was heard on both sides, Mr. Buckby (14) for Dr. Wake and Mr. Lovell for the Bishop of Lincoln.

The visitation was continued next morning at 9 a.m., and prorogued to the Great Chamber of the Inn of St. George (*Hospitium ad signum S. Georgii*) in Northampton.

At which hour and place a doubt having been raised as to the validity of the Letters Patent of King Charles I., his lordship prorogued his visitation till Tuesday in Whitsun-week, between the hours of 9 and 12, in the Chapel of the Hospital.

Here the matter seems to have ended, for there is no record of the visitation being re-opened. This is probably accounted for by the death of Bishop Fuller 22nd April, 1675.

(13) Salathiel Lovell, Esq., Councillor-at-Law, was one of the Commissioners for the rebuilding of Northampton after the fire of 1675.

(14) Wm. Buckby, Serjeant-at-law, was son of the Rev. Wm. Buckby, B.D., of Clifton, Beds. He was born in 1633, and died 20th Nov. 1685. He was buried in St. Sepulchres, London, where there is a monument to his memory. He was appointed Deputy Recorder of Northampton, May 11th, 1663. He married 17th Oct., 1661, Mary, daughter of Chief Justice Raynsford. (See Serjeantson's History of St. Giles, 241.)

It was while this visitation was actually going on that the following rather extraordinary letter was written by Dr. Danvers, (15) a well-known citizen of Northampton in the 17th century. His house still stands at the bottom of Newland, and is one of the very few which escaped the great fire of 1675. The letter is dated May 30th, 1675, and was thus addressed :—

“ These to the Honorable Sir Joseph Williamson, Principall Secretary of State present.

Honoured Sir,

Though the unhappinesse of so long discontinued an acquaintance might justly discourage me from making an addvanse to you, yett the former experience of your kindnesse, and the assured confidence I have now of your immutable goodnesse makes me thus bold to request a favour at your hand : and indeed the onely one that I shall ever trouble you for, or is likely to lie in my way to be capable of ; and I would willingly bee one amongst your many friends that must own their rise and happinesse to your favour. Sir, there is a small Hospitall here at Northampton in the disposall of our very good friend and lord, the Byshop of Lincoln elect (whose acquaintance I was once honoured, and perhapps may not bee quite worne out still) : butt I need such a potent Remembrancer as your selfe to move his lordship in my behalfe for the Reversion, after the present incumbent, Dr. Wake, whome (if you will believe there is any such thing as the *Religio Medici*) I heartily pray, “ Long may he live ; ” and I think I can waite as long as anyone for dead men’s shoes. I can not but think you want not better friends, nor more deserving persons, to conferre your favours on : yett (under favour, and without vanity bee it spoken) in other respects perhapps there can not bee designed a fitter person, then one constantly residentiary upon the place, and rightly qualified by his profession for such a crazy charge and imployment, and I am apt to think such an one was intended by the founder, and if the poor themselves had votes they would make such an election. However I am sure of this, none in the world should be more thankful for such a favour, nor more true to their trust then

Your most humble servant,

DANIEL DANVERS.” (16)

(15) Daniel Danvers, M.D., was a Fellow of New College and Trinity College, Oxford, and belonged to the well-known Danvers family of Culworth, Northants. He lived in the old Elizabethan house in Newland. He died 12th May, 1699, and was buried in All Saints’ Church.

(16) Domestic State Papers, Charles II., 1675, No. 275.

Whether Mr. Secretary Williamson interceded for his friend we cannot say. If he did his efforts were unavailing, for on the death of Dr. Wake seven years later, the Bishop appointed some one else to the Mastership of St. John's.

Dr. Wake died 9th May, 1682, and was buried before the altar in the Hospital Chapel. The slab which covers his grave bears this inscription:—

“Here lyeth the Body of Dr. George Wake, 2^d sonn of Sr Baldwin Wake, Baronet, who dyed May [the 9th Ann. Dom. 1682.]” (17)

Above the inscription is a shield bearing the Wake arms:—Or two bars gules, in chief three torteaux.

Dr. Wake was succeeded by John Skelton, Archdeacon of Bedford, who ruled the house for twenty-two years. He died 3rd April, 1714, and was also buried in the Chapel of the Hospital.

He lies side by side with his predecessor and his tombstone bears this inscription:—

“Here lyeth the body of John Skelton, Archdeacon of Bedford, and Master of this Hospital, who dyed the 3^d April, 1704.” (18)

Above are the Skelton arms:—A fesse between three fleurs de lis.

During the later years of the 17th century the Hospital Chapel appears to have been occasionally used for weddings. This was decidedly irregular, but was not put a stop to till the passing of the Marriage Act, 1754.

The Registers of several neighbouring parishes contain a record of these marriages. The entries in the St. Sepulchre's Registers are doubtless accounted for by the fact that Jonas Whitwham, who was Vicar of St. Sepulchre's from 1668 to 1708, was also a Co-brother, or Chaplain, of the Hospital.

On 31st July, 1671, he records the marriage of John Gibbs and Katherine Welsh, both of Woodford, “at ye chapell of St. John Baptist in Northampton.”

In 1700, he states that “Mr. John Skelton of the parish (sic!) of St. John Baptist in the towne of Northton, and Isabell Hoare, of the same

(17) The last few words are now obliterated, but are supplied from *Bridges' Northamptonshire*, I., 457.

(18) John Skelton matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 24th June, 1653; B.A., 26th Nov., 1656; M.A., 4th June, 1659. Chaplain to Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln. Vicar of Stixwold, 1666, and Rector of Scrayfield, Co. Lincoln, 1671. Archdeacon of Bedford 15th March, 1678—9. Rector of East Wickham, Co. Lincoln, 1680. Rector of Walgrave, Northants, 1681—1704. Prebendary of Lincoln, 1683. Master of St. John's Hospital, Northampton, 1682—1704. On January 1st, 1700—1, he was married in the Hospital Chapel to Isabel Hoare, of Northampton.

towne, was married by me in the church or chapell of St. John Baptist, January ye 1st day."

There are similar records in the years 1690, 1699, 1702, 1706 and 1707.

The great fire of 1675, which destroyed the Church of All Saints, furnished some excuse for marriages at St. John's from that parish. The following is an example :—

"January 1675—6, John Barrett and Sarah Brookes were married XXVIIth day by Dr. Conant at St. John's Chappell, ours being desolate."

In 1716, we find the following entry in the parish register of Abington:—

"Sept. 8. Henry Bunyan of All Saints in Northton and Elizabeth Plowman of this parish were marryed att St. John's Hospitall in Northton by Licence paying me the accustomed dues, being five shillings."

In 1743, the Rector of Abington records ;—

"On Oct. 26th I married Marriot Nixon and Ann Hunn at S. John Baptist's Chapple in Northampton."

"13 June, 1749. I married Mark Goode of Gt. Houghton and Mary Paul at S. John's Hospital in Northampton."

During the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries the story of the Hospital was a quiet and uneventful one. The Masters were all non-resident, the services being conducted by the two Co-brothers, or Chaplains.

James Gardiner, who was Master from 1704 till 1731, was Sub-dean of Lincoln, and lived there till his death 24th March, 1731.

He was followed by Anthony Reynolds, M.A., son of Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln. He lived at Little Paxton, Hunts., and died there in 1751. On his tomb-stone is the following inscription :—

"Here lieth the body of Anthony Reynolds, son of Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln and *Registrar* of this Diocese. Also the body of Louisa his wife. Dec. 26, 1751."

He was buried at Little Paxton 29th Dec., 1751, and is described in the Burial Register as "Capt. Anthony Reynolds."

After him came another layman, John Kerrich, M.D. (1st Feb., 1752, till 1762). He was a doctor in Bury St. Edmunds, and died there 9th Oct., 1762, aged 70. He was buried in the Church of St. Mary, Bury St. Edmunds, where there is a stone to his memory, and to that of his wife Mary, and two children.

From a note in an old account book in the Hospital chest, we learn how the charity was managed in 1762, the year of Dr. Kerrich's death. The statement was doubtless drawn up for the benefit of his successor. It reads as follows :—

“THE CONSTITUTION OF ST. JOHN’S HOSPITAL, NORTHAMPTON.

The Master, who has reserved Rents payd him yearly and half-yearly, which amount to £120 12 4 per an. (now £126 3 10 in later hand).

Two Co-brethren, each of which has £5 11 0 for reading Prayers every Wednesday, and Friday, and for administering Sacrament twice in a year to the poor belonging to the Hospital.

Every lease that is granted by the Master must be signed by his Brethren as well as by him, for which the lessee gives them half-a-guinea apiece.

There are eight poor persons always to be maintained by the Mastér ; they are allowed by him $9/4$ per week, viz. $1/2$ to each. He supplies them with wood and coals, and some other necessaries : keeps in repair the Alms-house and the Lodge, which is now in the occupation of Mrs. Pasham. It is not necessary that a vacancy should be filled up by the people of Northampton or the county only. The Master has a full right to put in whom he pleases, but generally the poor widows or any infirm person are taken out of the town of Northampton. This Hospital was founded by William St. Clere, Archdeacon of Northampton, about the year 1137. The Bishop of Lincoln is the Lawful Patron. The £24 6 8 for the poor was given by John Dillington [Dallington] Cler. and was confirmed by Henry Lord Bishop of Lincoln 1340. His name was Burwash [Burghersh].”

Dr. Kerrich was followed by Robert Dowbiggin (1792—1794). He was Sub-dean of Lincoln, and held various other ecclesiastical appointments. He lived at Stoke Goldington, of which he was Rector 1766 to 1794. He died there 19th Nov., 1794, aged 57, and was buried in the chancel.

His successor was George Hubbard (1795—1814), another medical man. Like Dr. Kerrich he also lived at Bury St. Edmunds. After holding office for nearly twenty years it was discovered that his appointment was illegal, as he was not a graduate of a University, as required by the Charter of Charles I. (19)

He was therefore compelled to resign ; he lived seven years longer, and died 1st August, 1821, and was buried in the churchyard of Bury St. Edmunds, where there is a stone (now much defaced) to his memory.

(19) See letter from Richard Williams (one of the Co-brothers) in the Hospital chest.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* (20) gives us the following particulars with regard to Dr. Hubbard :—

“Deaths.—August 1st, aged 72, (21) after a lingering illness, which he bore with great fortitude and resignation, George Hubbard, Gent., one of the Burgesses of the Corporation of Bury St. Edmunds, and who for 50 years had practised as a surgeon and apothecary in that town with great reputation. To his professional knowledge was added an accurate taste for the Fine Arts, and a considerable insight into the economy and natural history of bees, for which a prize was awarded him from the Society of Arts in 1791. In his temper he was cheerful, in his conversation lively and instructive, in his affections warm and benevolent. Such was the man !”

Dr. Hubbard's successor was Richard Pretzman, the last of the non-resident Masters. He was appointed 9th July, 1814, and held office till his death on March 25th, 1866.

It was during his Mastership that the Charity Commissioners made their famous survey of English Charities which resulted in the report of 1836. The report states with regard to St. John's, Northampton, that :—

“The Hospital consists of an ancient building in Bridge Street, containing apartments for eight alms-people, with a common hall, or kitchen, in which a fire is kept for the use of all the inmates, being the only fire place in the house. There is also a dilapidated room upstairs without floor or ceiling, called the apartment of the Co-brethren, but not occupied in the memory of any person living. There is also a chapel close adjoining, with a burying-ground attached. The chapel was repaired a few years ago, and is in good condition. The Co-brethren, by turns, read prayers in it to the alms-people, on Wednesdays and Fridays. They also attend to the sick, and the sacrament is administered on St. John's Day and Good Friday.

Mr. Williams [one of the Co-brothers] states that he formerly used to christen and church parishioners of All Saints in this chapel and bury in the churchyard.

Marriages also were celebrated here (22) prior to the Marriage Act.

Behind the Hospital, and removed from the street, is a large Mansion-house for the Master with a garden of three acres belonging to it, and another adjoining of three roods belonging to the Co-brethren, which is let by the senior for his own use. It produces £6 a year. The site of the Hospital is extra-parochial. No Master has resided for many years. About the

(20) *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1821, pt. 2, 188.

(21) In his 78th year according to his tombstone.

(22) See above, p. 57.

middle of the last [18th] century Sir Thomas Humble, Bart., (23) was tenant of the Master's house at £15 a year, and resided in it. The building is very spacious, and appears to have been still larger than it is at present, several outbuildings having been recently pulled down.

The Rev. Richard Williams, (24) Senior Co-brother, has received the rents and managed the affairs of the Hospital for 40 years. He collects the rents according to a rental which he found in use on his appointment. He has also the settling of the fines paid on the renewal of the leases, which are granted for lives, or 40 years, renewable every 14, and he pays the fines to the Master for his separate use. The Co-brethren receive 10/6 each on the execution of a lease."

At the time of the Charity Commissioners' report the income of the Hospital amounted to £95 16s. 6d., out of which the following annual payments were made:—

	£	s.	d.
Eight alms-people at 1/2 each per week	24	6	8
Two Co-brethren £5 each	10	0	0
Ditto allowance for firing	1	2	0
Medical attendance on women (about)	4	0	0
Paving tax	1	8	9
Insurance	1	8	6
Candlemas gift	1	4	0
Wine for Sacrament	1	10	6
Quit rent to the Earl of Pomfret	1	14	0
	<hr/>		
	£46	13	5

In addition to this there were other small payments for repairs, household utensils, firing, &c., amounting on an average to £18 6s. 7d., which brought the expenditure up to about £65 a year. The residue, viz. £30, went to the Master. In addition to this, however, the Master received a much larger income from the fines paid on the renewal of leases. It was calculated that the fines paid between 1814 and 1836 amounted on an average to £128 a year, nearly all of which was received by the Master.

(23) Sir Wm. Humble the 5th, Bart. is evidently intended (there was no Sir Thomas). He is known to have lived in Northampton, and died there 14th November, 1742, aged 32. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Barnard, by whom he left one (surviving) son, John, the 6th and last Baronet, who was baptized at St. Peter's, Northampton, 26th August, 1737. On his death, 6th February, 1744—5, the Baronetcy became extinct.

(24) Richard Williams, of Christ's College, Cambridge; B.A., 1780; M.A., 1783. Curate of All Saints', Northampton, 1792—1805. Co-brother of St John's Hospital, 1796—1844. Rector of Great Houghton, 8th July, 1805—1844. Prebendary of Lincoln, 10th Dec., 1805—1844. Rector of Markfield, Co. Leicester, 1804—1844. Died 4th July, 1844, at Great Houghton, aged 85.

About the year 1836, a Bill was prepared for presentation to Parliament by which it was proposed to build a chapel of ease (with a cemetery attached) for the use of the parishioners of All Saints, on ground within the precincts of the Hospital, and to sell another two acres adjoining and apply the proceeds to the benefit of the Master, Co-brothers and alms-people. The judges to whom the bill was referred, refused to recommend the scheme as it involved the giving to the parish of All Saints a considerable piece of ground belonging to the Hospital, worth not less than £1,000, without any compensation. (25)

About the middle of the last century the whole of the Hospital estates were thrown into Chancery owing to a dispute between the Master (Canon Pretzman) and one of the tenants of the Hospital property. For a time the Chancery officials contented themselves with appointing a receiver of the rents which were sent to London once a year. No new scheme was prepared as there was very little money to deal with. Canon Pretzman died in 1866, and for five years no successor was appointed. Eventually, however, the Midland Railway Company obtained Parliamentary powers compelling the Hospital authorities to sell part of their property (including the Master's house). The officials of the Court of Chancery, acting on behalf of the Charity, and regardless of the interesting nature of the old buildings, compelled the Railway Company to purchase the whole site of the Hospital. The purchase actually took place on 19th July, 1871. (26) A new scheme now became inevitable, but before anything was done a new Master (The Rev. Nathaniel Thomas Hughes) was appointed (18th August, 1871), "to represent and preserve the intentions and purposes of the original founders of the Charity." After much deliberation, and after many interviews between the Master and the Attorney General, a new scheme was drawn up, and was finally approved by the Court of Chancery on 15th June, 1875.

According to this scheme the property of the Hospital was vested in 18 trustees, who were to be responsible for the management of the Charity.

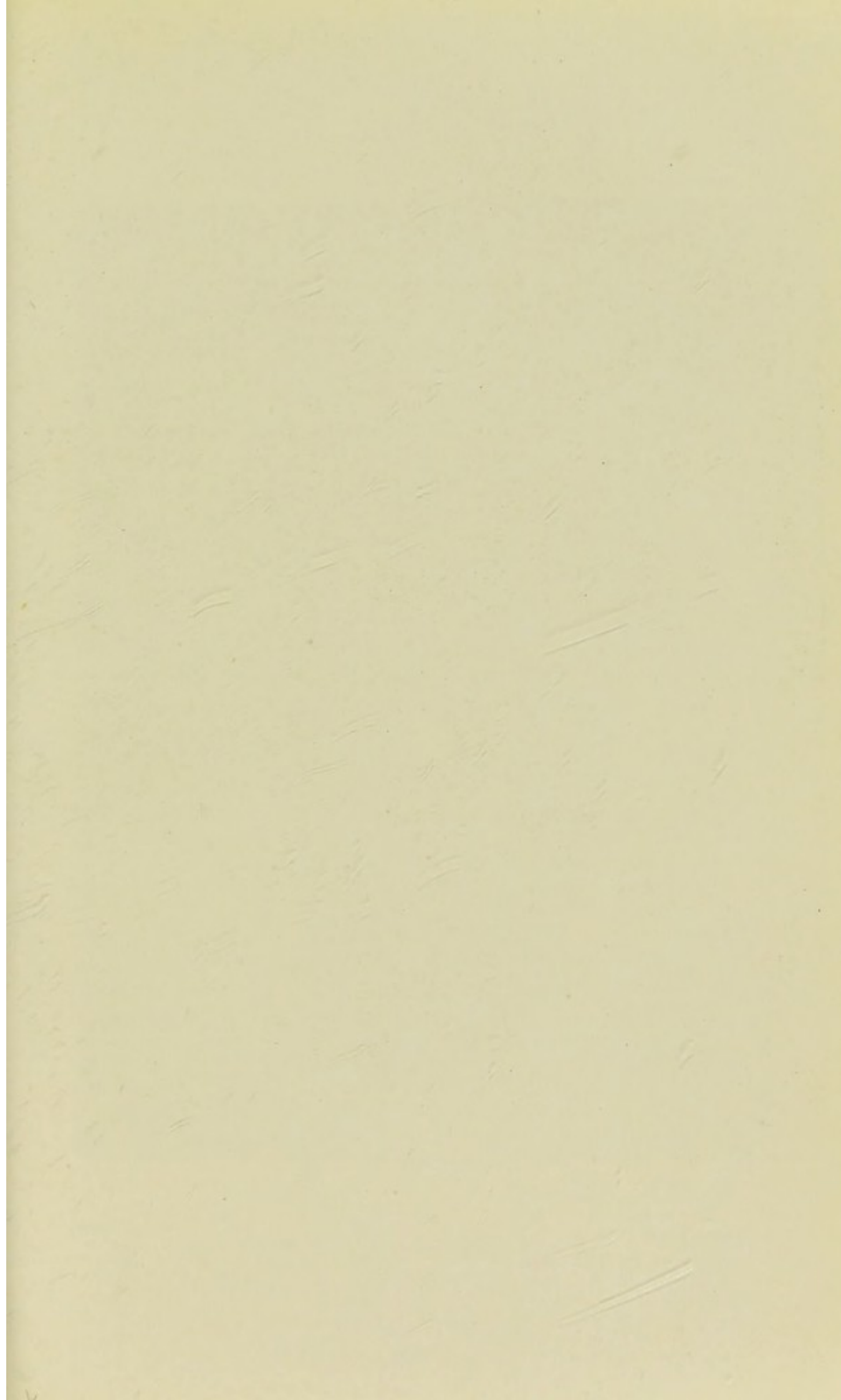
The alms-people, so long as they lived, were to receive a weekly allowance of 8/-; but no new ones were to be appointed, their places being taken, when a vacancy occurred, by the appointment of an out-pensioner.

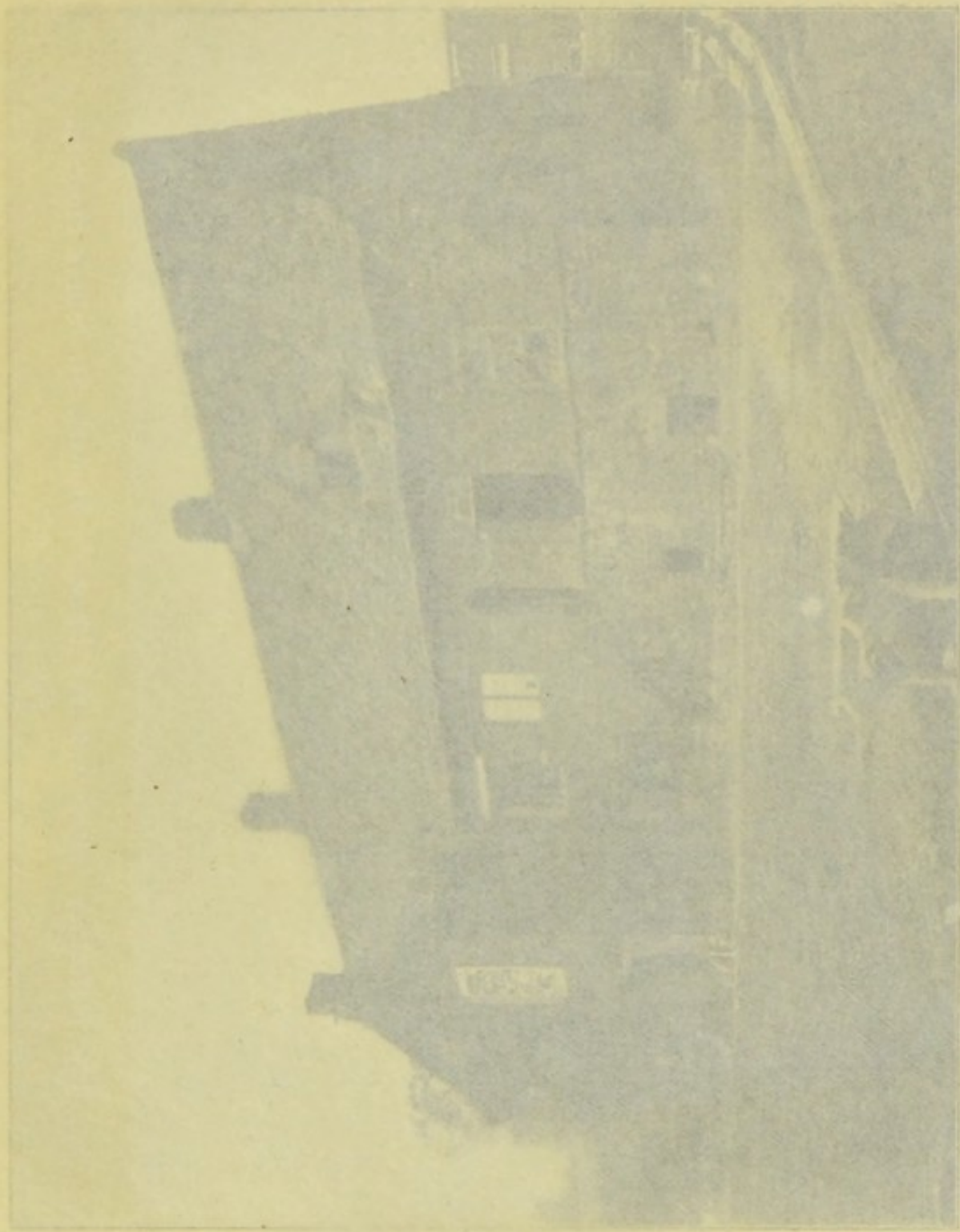
When the alms-people had died out, the number of out-pensioners was to be limited to eight, who were each to receive a weekly allowance of 5/-.

The last Co-brother died on 15th May, 1875, and according to the new scheme no new Co-brothers are to be appointed for the future.

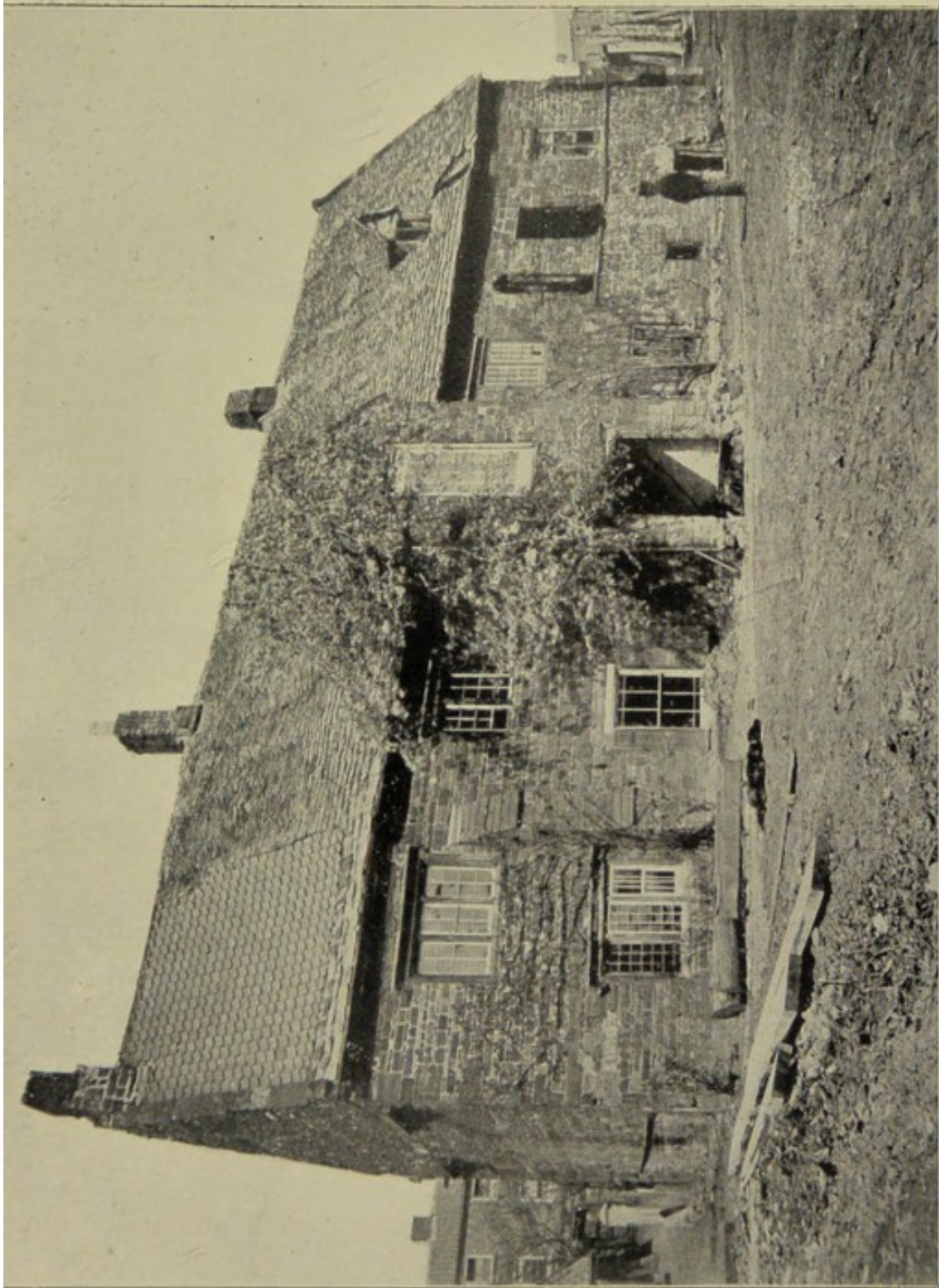
(25) Charity Commissioners' Report, p. 819.

(26) From information kindly supplied by the officials of the Midland Railway Company.





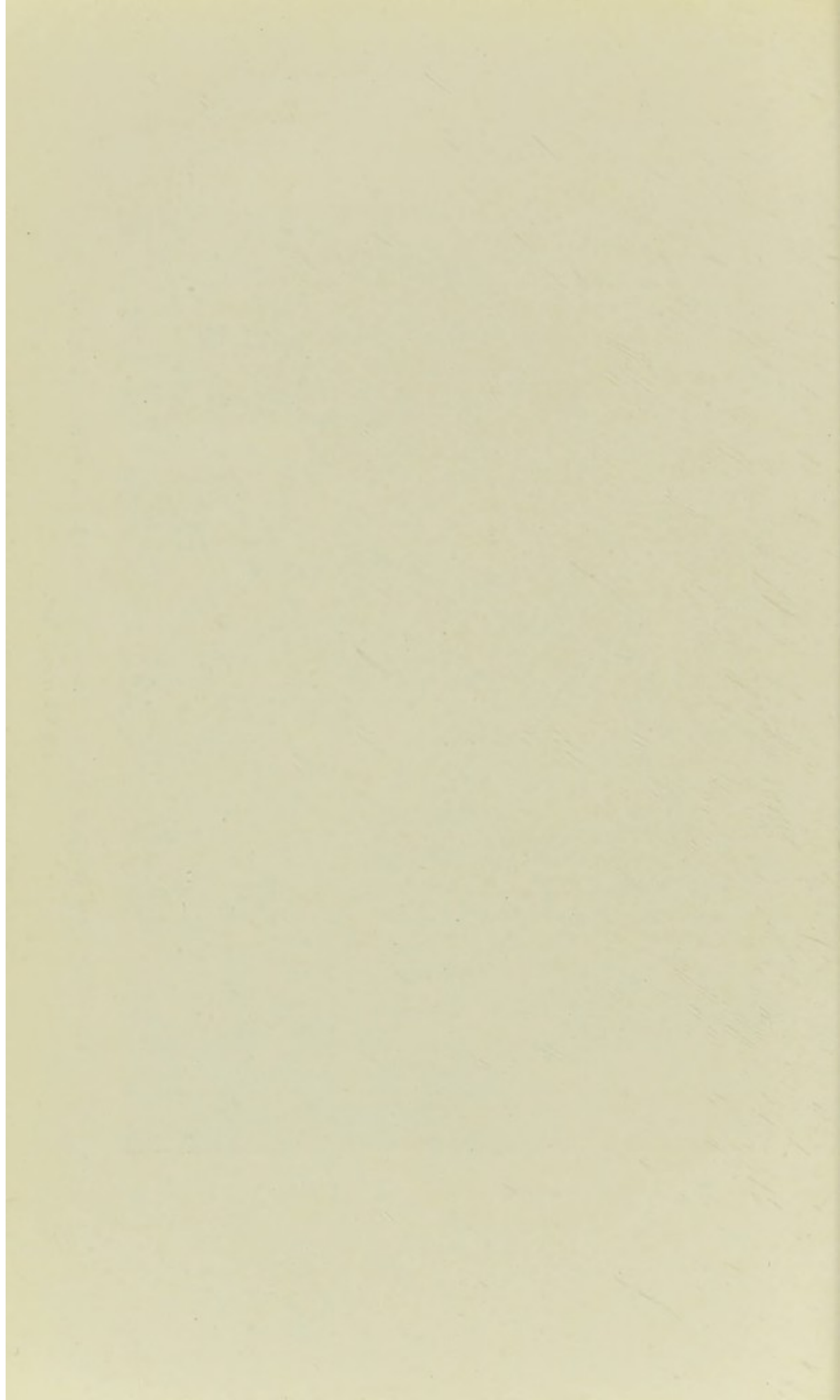
The Refectory (afterwards the Master's House), St. John's Hospital.



The Refectory (afterwards the Master's House), St. John's Hospital.

Pulled down 1871.

(Reproduced by the kind permission of the Library Committee).



The appointment of the Master was vested, as previously, in the Bishop of Lincoln.

The Master was expected to celebrate divine service in the old chapel (with the consent of the new owners) for the benefit of the alms-people, and on the erection of the new Convalescent Home, to officiate in the new chapel to be built there, as directed by the Bishop of Lincoln.

It was further ordered that after paying the stipends of the Master, alms-people and out-pensioners, and defraying the cost of repairs, management, &c., the net income of the Charity should "be employed in the erection and maintenance of a Hospital or Home for Convalescents, with a chapel."

These buildings were in due course erected at Weston Favell, and the new Home was opened on 1st July, 1879. It contains 51 beds, 21 of which are for men and 30 for women.

THE BUILDINGS OF THE OLD HOSPITAL.

The old Hospital consisted originally of three main buildings—(1) The Infirmary or Almshouse. (2) The Chapel. (3) The Frater or Refectory (afterwards used as a Master's house). Of these, the first two still remain; but the Refectory was pulled down in 1871 to make room for the Midland Railway Station.

(1). The Infirmary, or Almshouse, is an oblong building 63ft. 7in. long, and 26ft. 9in. in width, with its west end abutting on Bridge street. The earliest part appears to be the entrance doorway on the north, which dates from the close of the 13th century. The west end of the house must have been built between 1300 and 1310, and the fine wheel window, which is such a feature of the building, and which has generally been considered rather later, is also probably much of the same date (1300—1310). The Infirmary was doubtless originally a large hall of one storey, with an open timber roof. It is possible that the east end was screened off as a chapel, as was so frequently the case in mediæval hospitals, but this is by no means certain.

On the one hand we have various allusions to the Farmery or Infirmary altar; but against this evidence may be set the injunction of 1340, that Mass was to be celebrated daily "by reason of the said sick folk, at the altar of the said Infirmary, in the western part of the chapel of the Blessed Mary the Virgin next the Organs: and when, on account of casual hindrance, it may not be celebrated in that place, then let it be performed

at the altar of St. Mary in the said chapel, or elsewhere in the said Hospital." Here it would appear that the chapel alluded to was a separate building, containing at least two altars, and "a pair of organs."

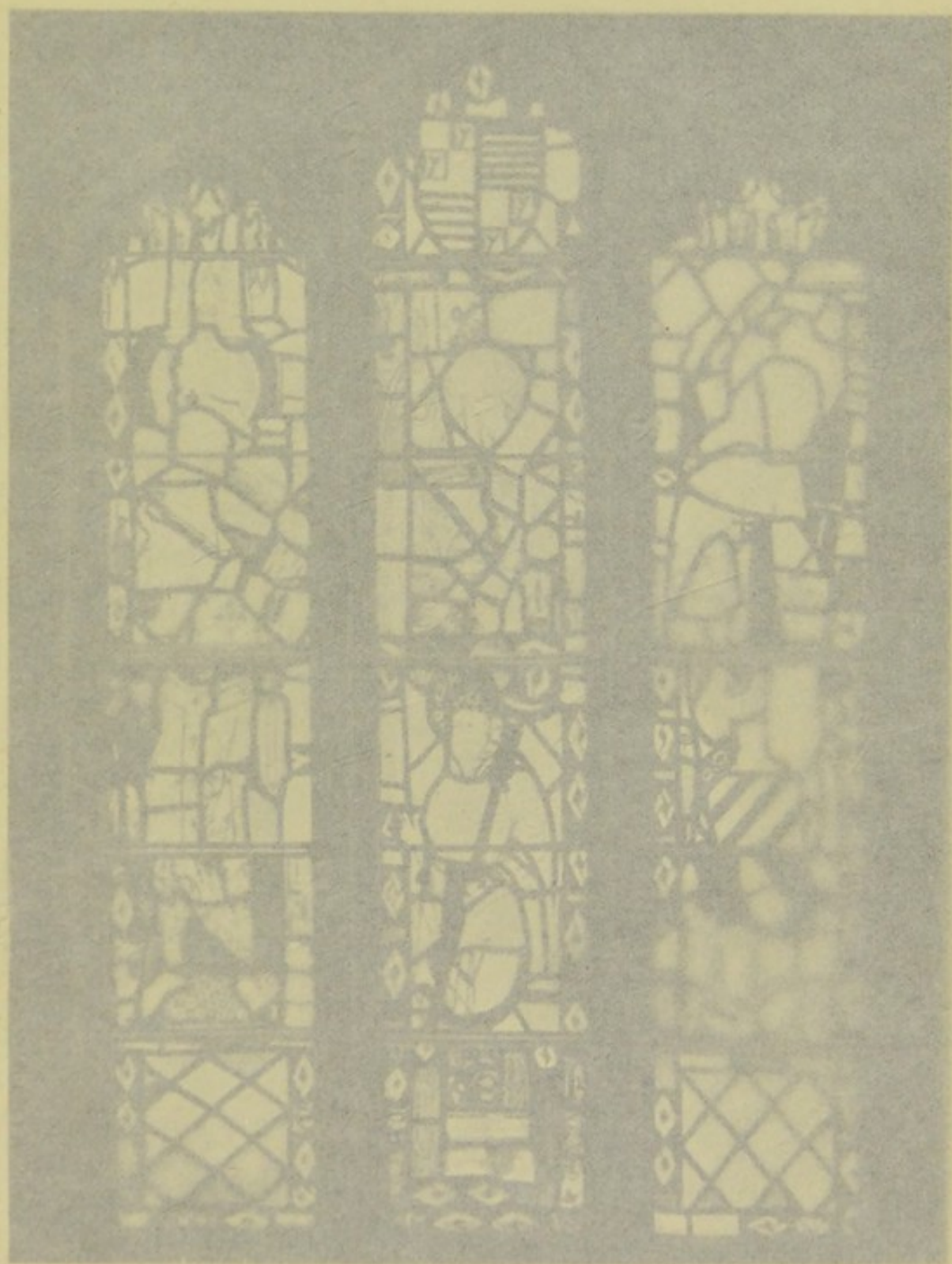
But however this may have been, the Infirmary was considerably remodelled in the 15th century. The centre of the hall was still left open to the roof, but floors were inserted at the east and west ends of the building, thus providing two rooms upstairs. These rooms were approached by a staircase, lighted by the present 15th century window—which was probably inserted during the Mastership of Richard Scherd (1475—1498), whose name appears in the glass.

This staircase window contains numerous other fragments of mediæval glass. They have evidently been collected from various places, and the re-setting has led to rather curious results. A heraldic shield bears the arms of Grey of Ruthyn, quartering Hastings and De Valence. It has, however, been inserted in the window (when the fragments were reset) with face outward. The result is that viewed from the inside of the building all the quarters are backwards.

Another fragment, also now inserted face outwards, bears the words [*Ri*]cardi Scherd. It is near the base of the centre light. The initials R. & S. which occur several times, also refer to Richard Scherd. A third fragment may perhaps be intended to represent St. John the Evangelist in the dress of a Brother of the Hospital. The mantle with the cross (which the Brethren were ordered to wear) is clearly shewn. It is not certain, however, whether the halo over the head of the figure really belongs to it, or not. If it does, it fits very awkwardly.

Returning to our consideration of the building, we notice that the chamber on the first floor to the east has a fire place which may possibly be of the same date as the window on the staircase, and several windows on the north and south sides of the building must likewise have been inserted towards the close of the 15th century.

During the latter half of the 17th century the original staircase was taken down, and replaced by the present one, which evidently dates from the reign of Charles II. The rails at the top of the landing are also of the same period.



St. John's Hospital.
Window on Staircase of Domicile.

Photo.]

[*H. Cooper & Son.*

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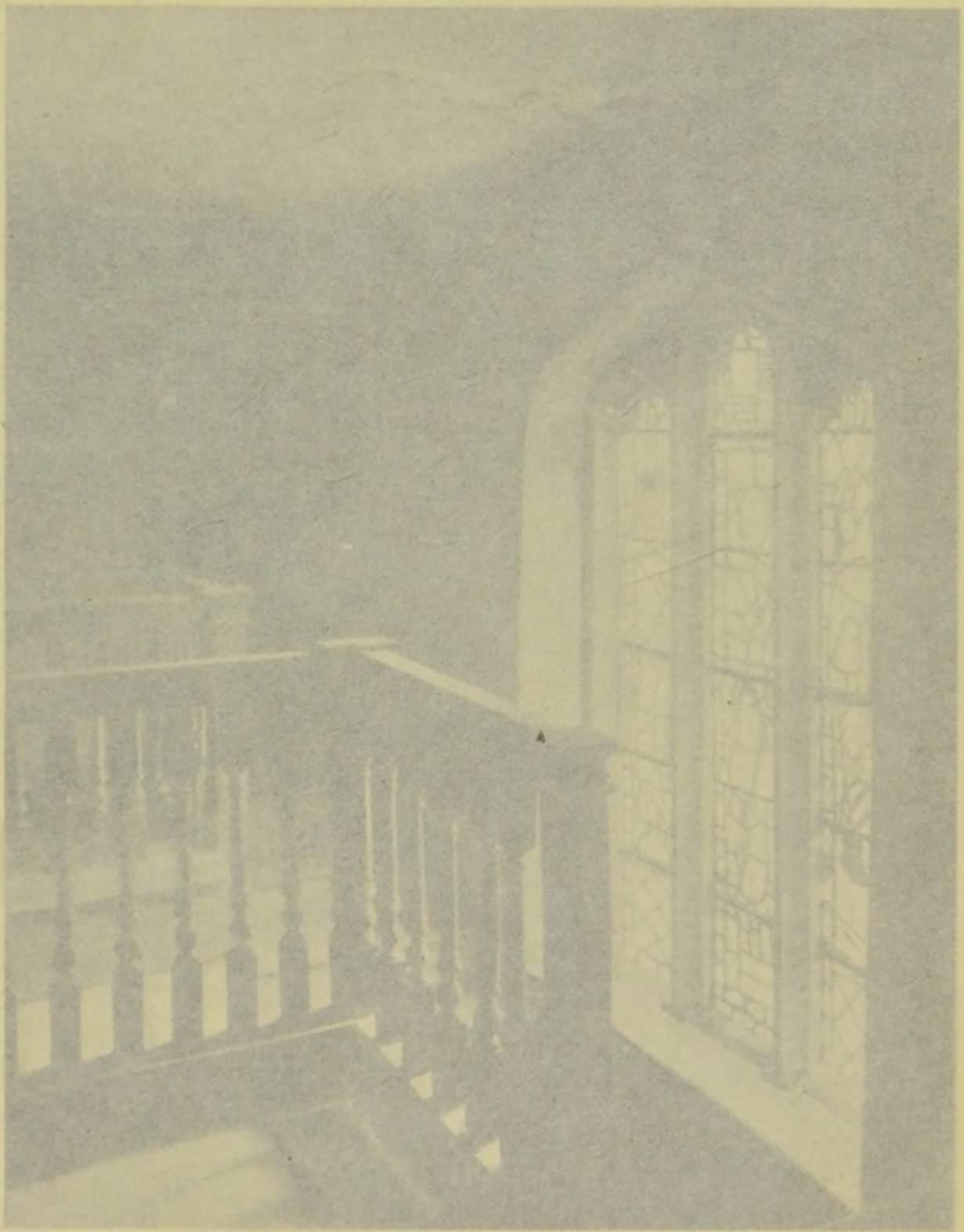
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St. John's Hospital.
Window on Staircase of Domicile.

Photo.]

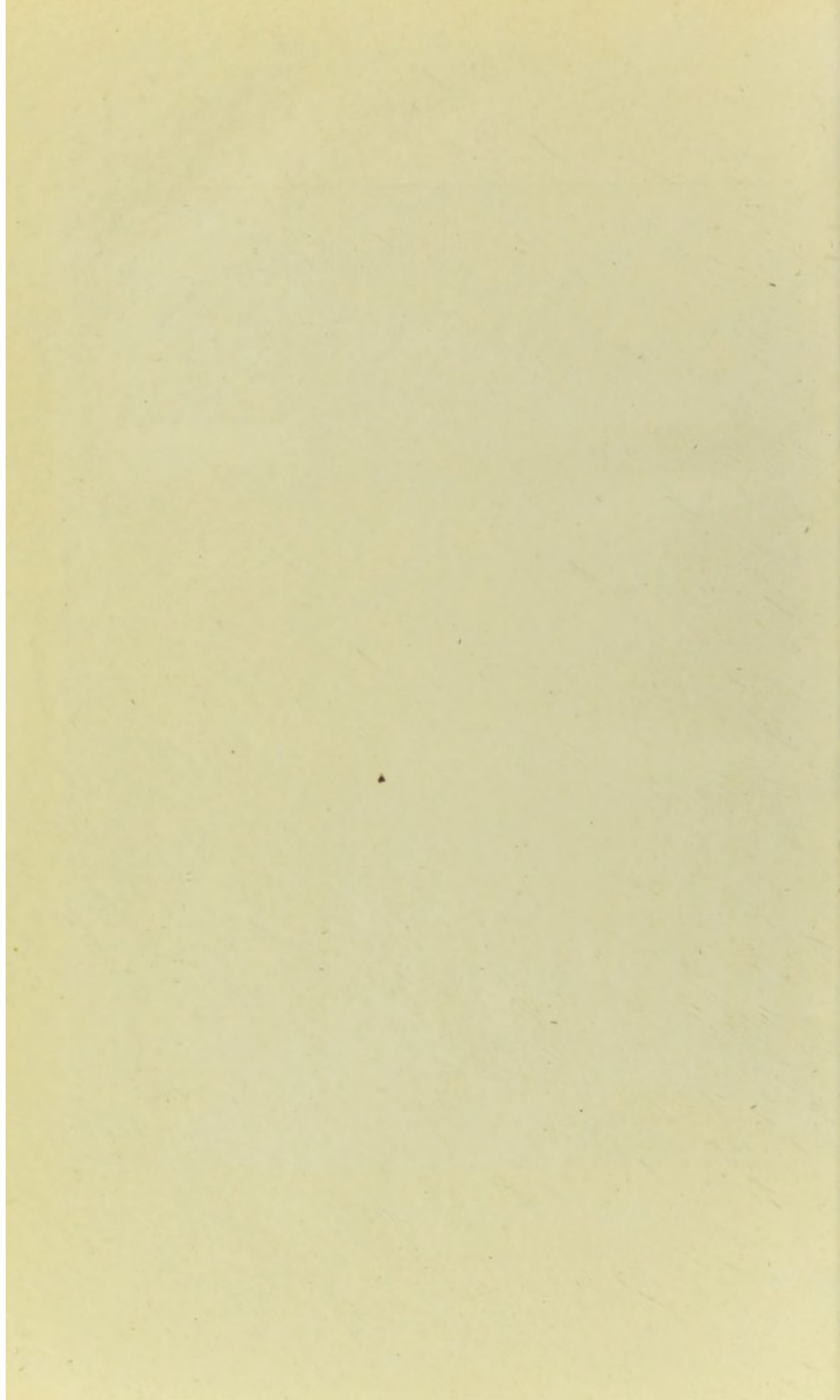
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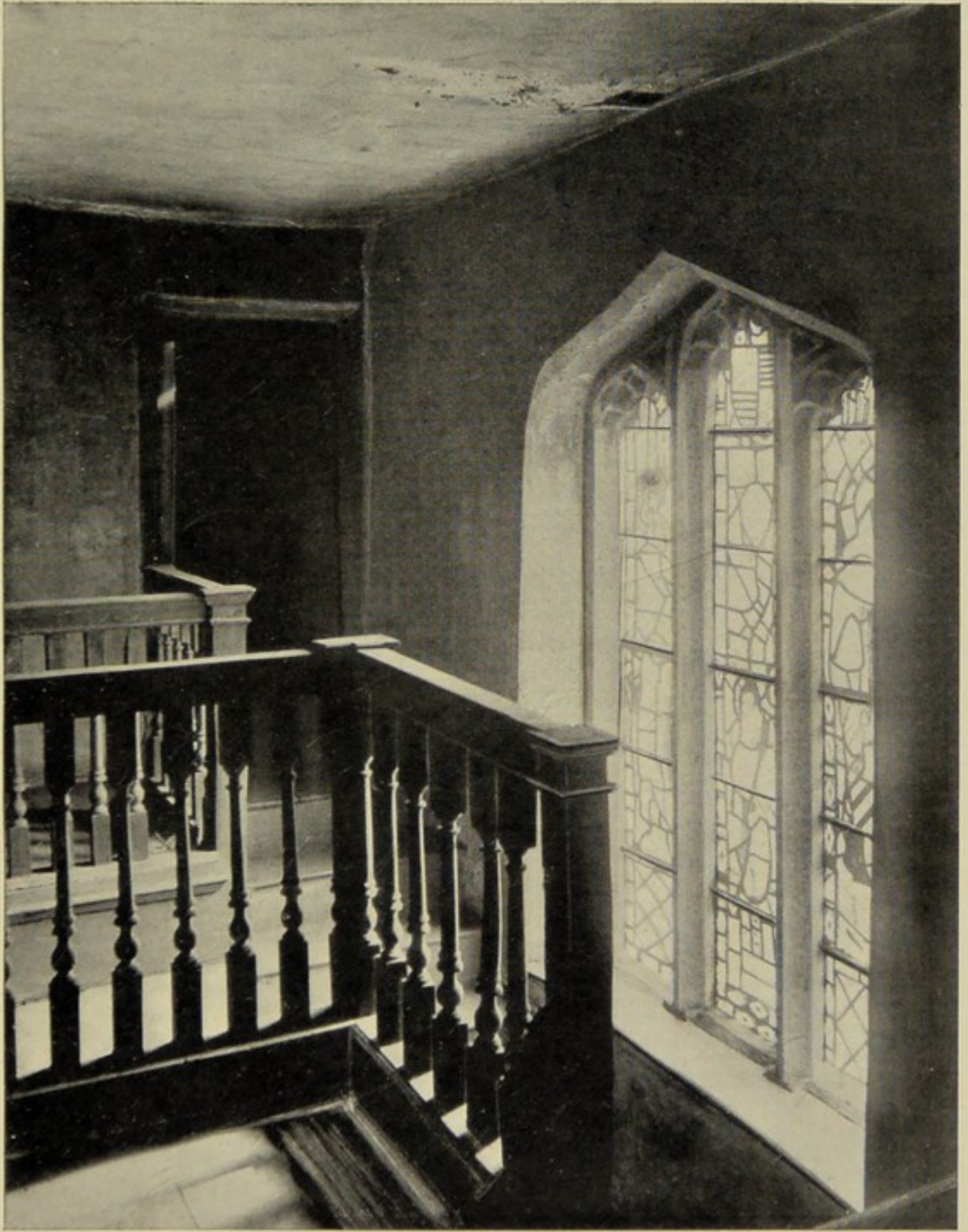


St. John's Hospital. Staircase of Domicile.

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[*H. Cooper & Son.*

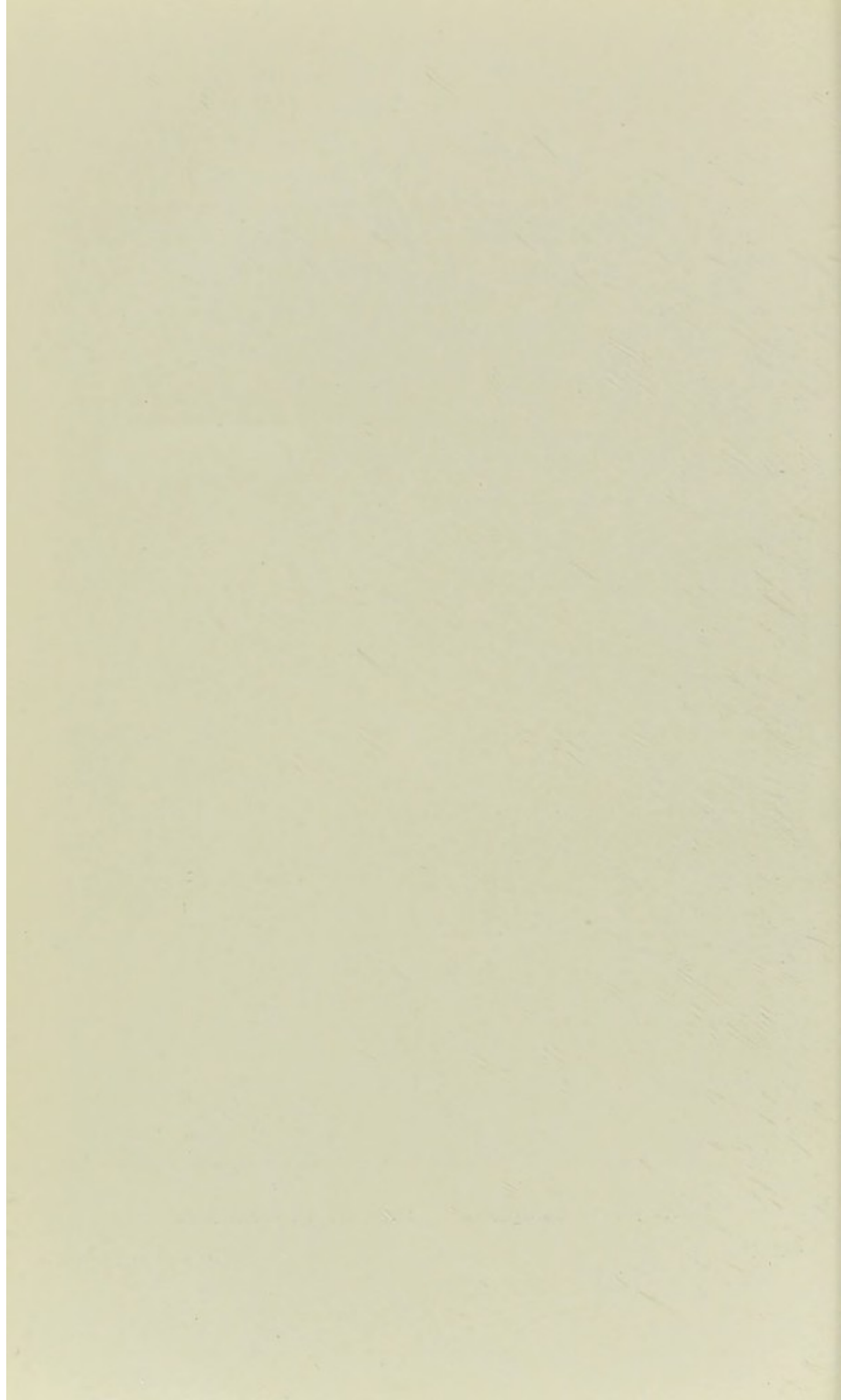


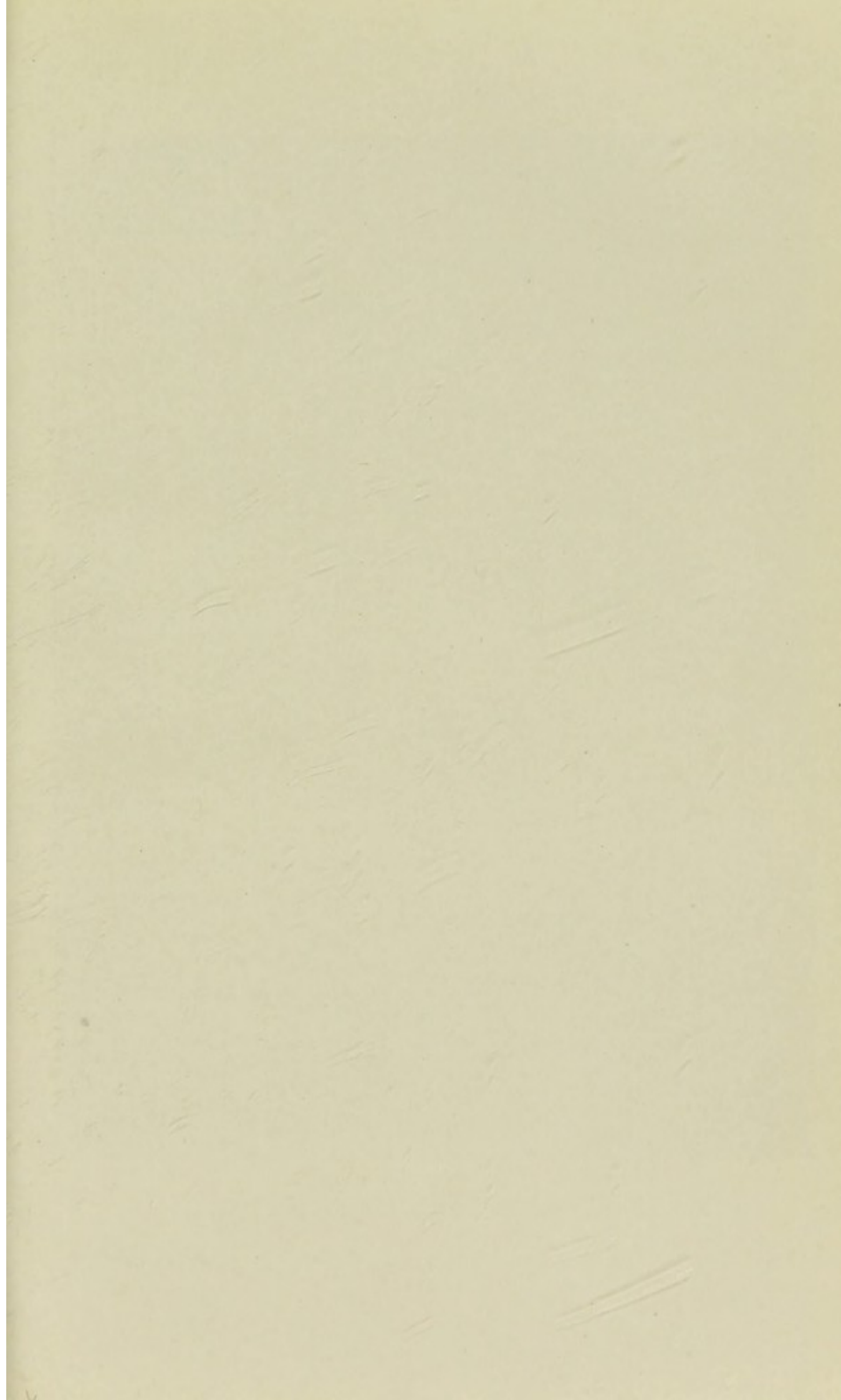


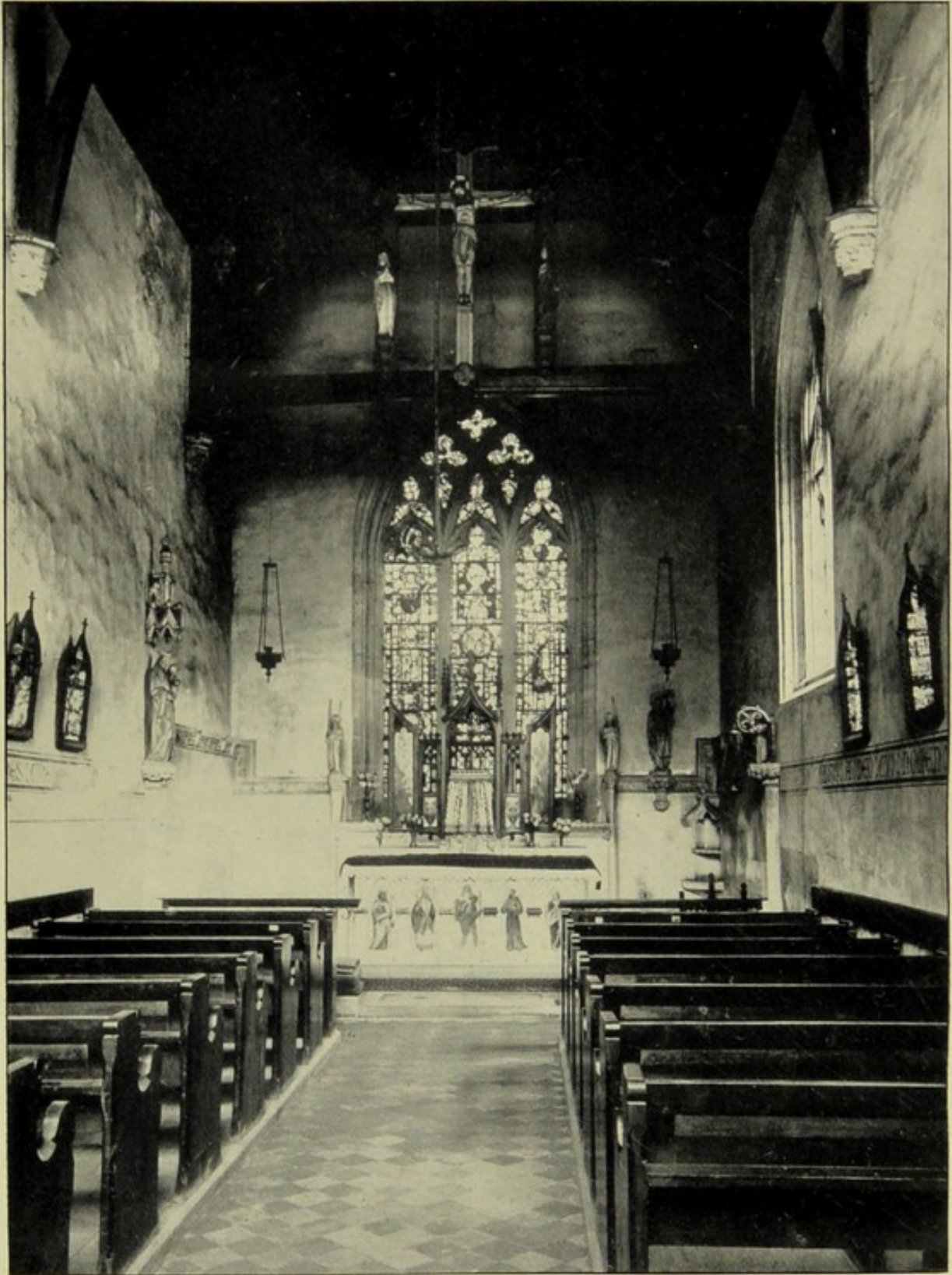
St. John's Hospital. Staircase of Domicile.

Photo.]

[*H. Cooper & Son.*







The Chapel St. John's Hospital in 1913.

Photo.]

[*Mr. G. S. Garrett.*

THE CHAPEL.

is north-east of the Almshouse, but is not attached to it at its north-west corner. It is a small building 30 ft. long by 20 ft. wide, and has been largely "restored." The east window is of three lights, and dates probably from the close of the 14th century. The west end of the building must have been rebuilt about the middle of the 15th century.

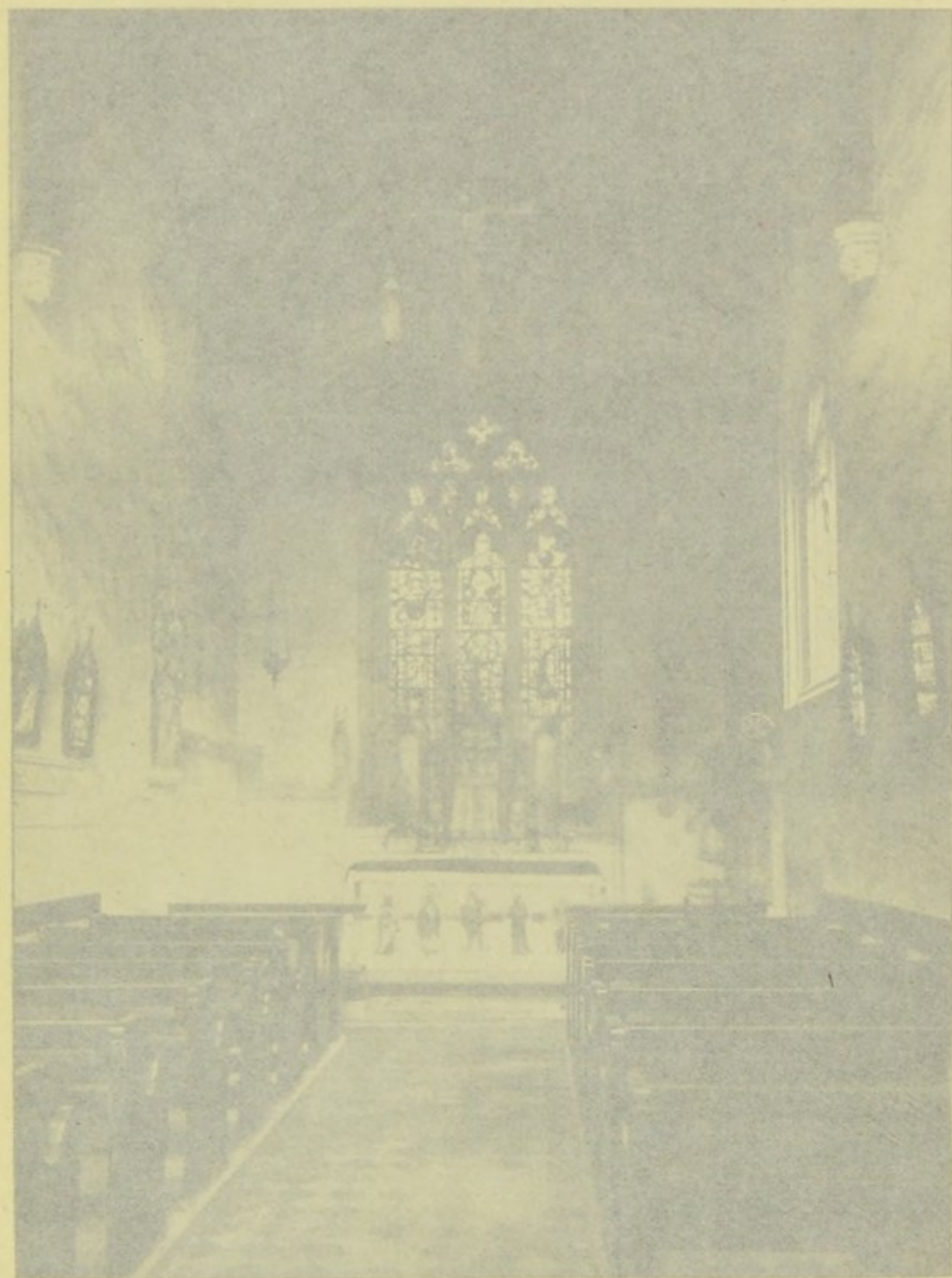
Leland, the Antiquary, who visited the Hospital in 1770, says:—"There is yn the north side of the church a high French altar dedicated to Lady Margaret. In the south side lyeth buried Sir Thomas Ponger with his wife's epitaph." (27)

He also tells us that "some of those killed in the battle of Marston were also interred here." (27)

The chapel contains some interesting fragments of glass which were collected and fitted into the east window when the building was restored. They are of very various dates. The most conspicuous pieces are those of the Blessed Virgin (crowned); St. Peter with the keys; St. John the Evangelist, with chalice and serpent; and an Assisiensis, possibly designed for St. Thomas of Canterbury. Dated about the same time are some small scrolls bearing the words *Honor Deo*. A shield in the upper left light of this window bears the arms of England—Gules three lions passant guardant with a label of three points argent. It is early glass, and is probably a representation of the arms of Thomas of Brotherton, Earl of Northampton, of Edward I. In the right hand light is a fragment of another shield—with the arms of Woodville. In the lower part of the window are some interesting mosaics in brown and yellow—either Flemish or Italian. They date from the 15th century, but are of two different periods. One of the later ones is dated 1594. Three of the earlier ones represent the story of Tobias and his dog. They were purchased by Mr. J. C. Mansel and presented to Bishop Amherst, who inserted them into the window. The chapel is now used as a place of worship by the Roman Catholics, who purchased it, and the Almshouse adjoining, from Mr. Henry Mellish, 28th on 21st March, 1877. It was conveyed to the Diocese of Northampton by Bishop Amherst on August 4th, 1880.

(27) Leland's Itinerary I., p. 19. Bridges (I. 375) records the following inscription on a stone in the chancel of Piddington Church:—"Rys Ponger gyt ley, Den de sa silue est apert. Ky per sa silue peters, Quarante jours de pardon aveca." Either therefore Leland made a mistake, or the stone was afterwards moved from the Hospital to Piddington Church.

(28) Mr. Mellish purchased the property from the Midland Railway Company about the year 1876.



The Chapel St. John's Hospital in 1913.

Photo.]

[Mr. G. S. Garrett.

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(27) Leland's Itinerary I., p. 10. Bridges (I. 378) records the following inscription on a stone in the chancel of Piddington Church: "Elys Pouger gyt icy, Deu de sa alme eyt merci. Ky por sa alme priera, Quarante jours de pardon avera." Either therefore Leland made a mistake, or the stone was afterwards moved from the Hospital to Piddington Church.

(28) Mr. Mulliner purchased the property from the Midland Railway Company about the year 1876.

THE REFECTORY.

This building was destroyed in 1871 to make way for the Midland Railway Station.

It stood some way east of the other buildings of the Hospital, and was a house of considerable size (87ft. long by 27ft. wide). It seems to have been rebuilt, added to, and diminished, at various dates.

By the 16th century the community had so far diminished in numbers that a Refectory was no longer needed, and the building was then used as a Master's House.

During the 18th and 19th centuries the Masters were generally non-resident, and, latterly at any rate, their house was allowed to fall into a state bordering on ruin. At last, however, it was let to Mr. Mold, a builder, who laid out some money upon it, and made part of it habitable; the rest being used as a timber store. A full account of this interesting old building is given in the *Associated Societies' Reports*, Vol. XII., pp. 225—230. It was written by the late Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., who took a great interest in the place, and planned and measured it all most carefully.

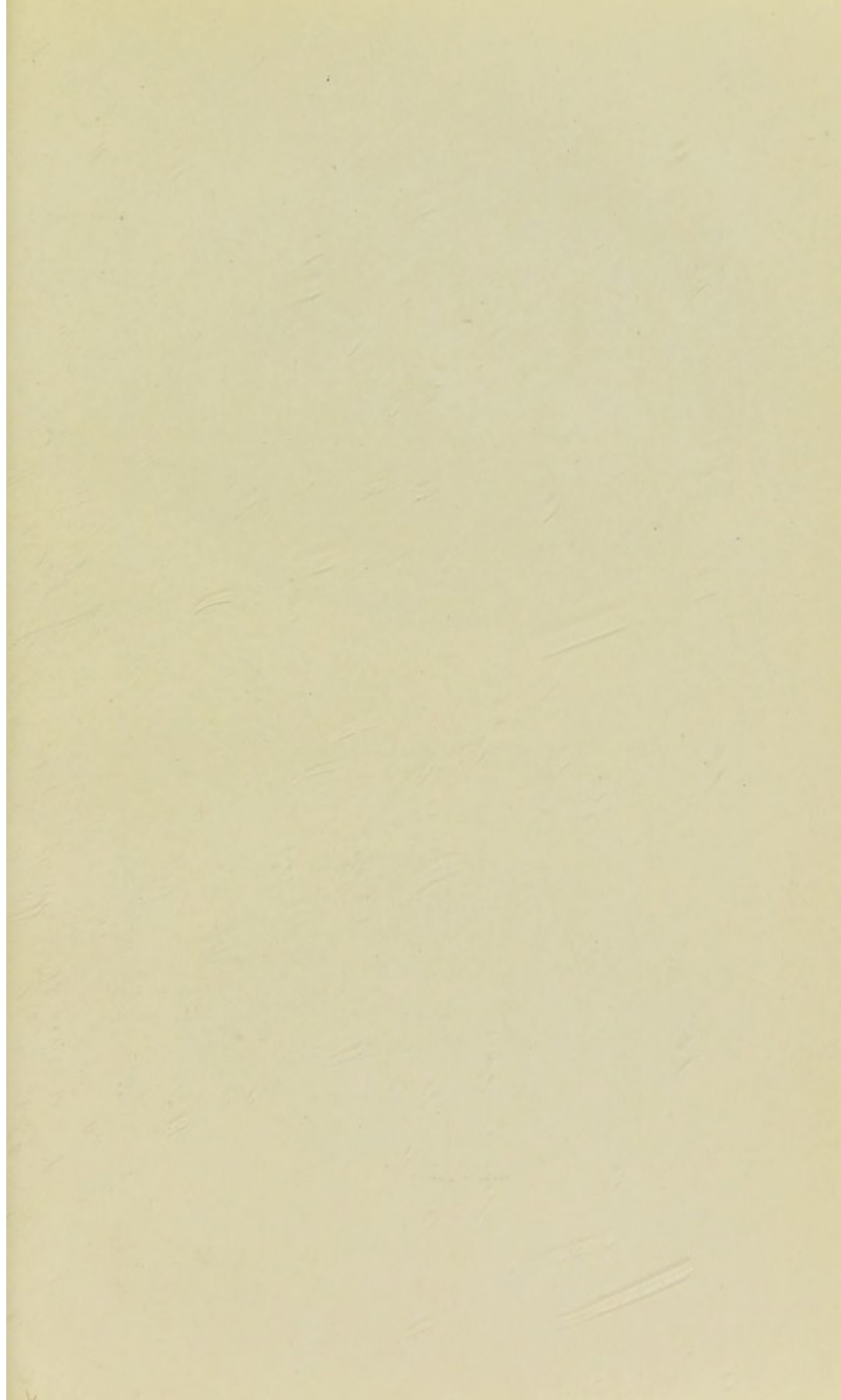
THE HOSPITAL SEALS.

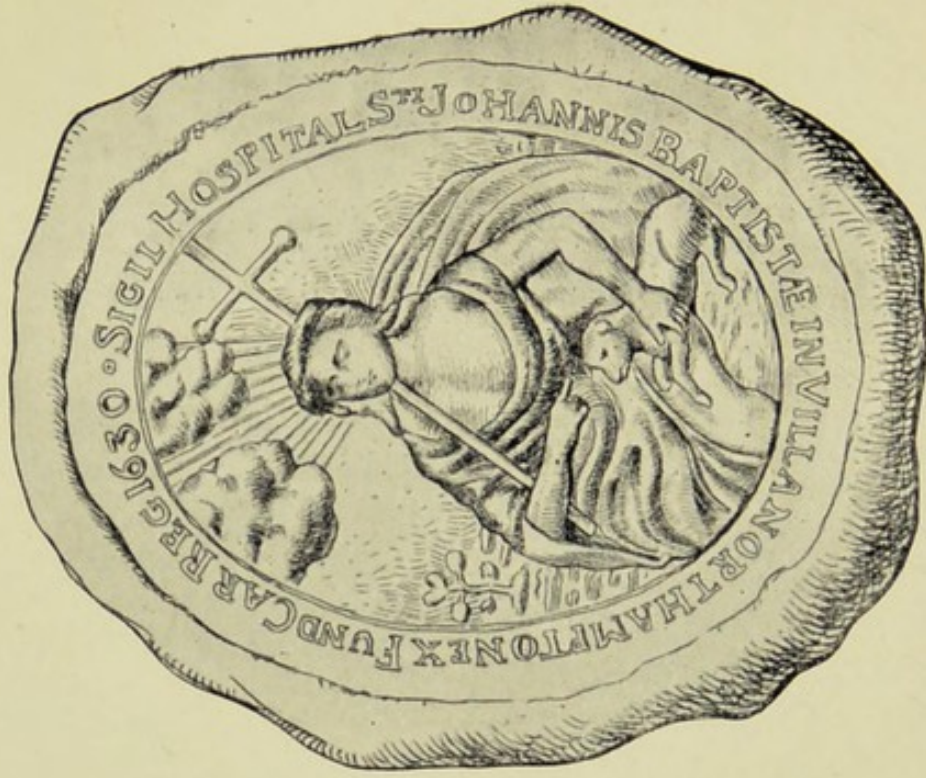
Several impressions of the Hospital Seal are still in existence. One, in the Public Record Office, is attached to the acknowledgment by the Hospital authorities of the royal supremacy in 1534. It is in fair condition though the inscription round the margin is much damaged. The one figured in the *Northampton Borough Records* is from a cast in the British Museum. It is thus described by the Rev. Dr. Cox, F.S.A. :—

“The impression, which is a fine one, represents on the right St. John the Baptist, partially covered with his raiment of camel's hair, holding a staff in the right hand, and pointing to the Agnus Dei on a plaque with the left hand: on the left St. John the Evangelist turned to the right holding a book in his right hand. Over the head of the former is the inscription B A P T I; over the head of the latter, I O. E W A. (viz. Johannes Evangelista). Between the Saints is a slender shaft supporting two round-headed arches, and an early roof and turret with lines representing thatch. In the base is a crescent, enclosing an estoile of eight points. The Legend in Lombardic capitals runs—SIGILL. HOSPITAL. S. . . . , . JOHIS BAPTISTE ET S. J. EWANG. DE NORHAMPT.” (29)

(Seal of the Hospital of St. John Baptist and St. John the Evangelist of Northampton).

(29) *Victoria County History (Northants)*, Vol. II., p. 159. See also *Catalogue of Seals in British Museum*, I., 683.





Present Seal of St. John's Hospital.



Ancient Seal of St. John's Hospital.

There is another early impression of this same Seal in the British Museum. It is in the early 17th century, much damaged, and is attached to a Charter dated 1280. (MSS. A. 10. 1. 15.)

Dedications to the Holy St. John in conjunction are not common, but are found in Hospitallal Churches, Rowport Pagnell, Sherburne, Northampton and Leicester; and in the church of Groombridge, Kent.

The Seal now in use dates from the time of Charles I. It is poorly executed, and represents St. John the Baptist seated, and partially draped. His left hand rests upon a lamb (to which he points with the first finger of his right hand), and over his right shoulder is a cross. Over his head is a rude representation of clouds, from which proceed rays of light which fall on the Saint's head. Round the margin is the following legend:—

“SIGILL. HOSPITAL. S^{ti} JOHANNIS BAPTISTÆ. IN VILLA
NORTHAMPTON EX FUND. CAR. REG. 1630.”

(Seal of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in Northampton of the foundation of King Charles, 1630)

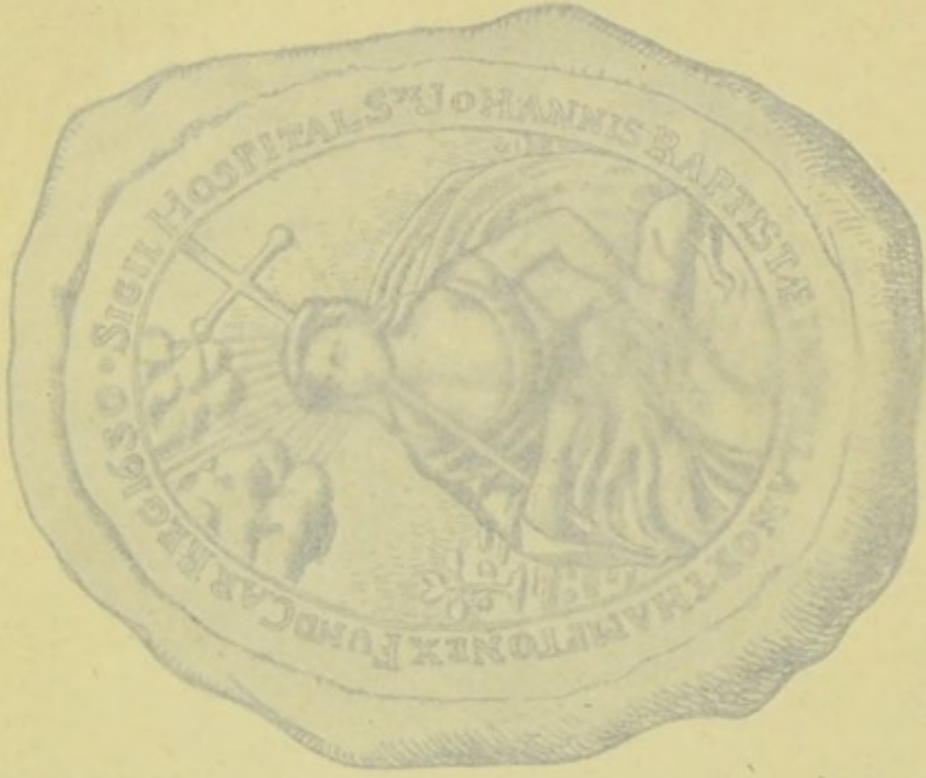
APPENDIX.

It has been stated by a well-known medieval writer that the Hospital was one of the amusements of the Belgians, and would at length have become the monotony of their lives, and give them something to think about. This of course is exaggerated, but the fact is very certain that the Hospital was one of the amusements of the Belgians, and would at length have become the monotony of their lives, and give them something to think about.

The Hospital of St. John was no exception to the rule, and a few examples are given below of suits to which the House was engaged during the 13th and 14th centuries. They have been extracted by the present writer from a number of De Banco and Assize Rolls, which have never been printed or calendarized, and which are therefore not easily accessible to the ordinary reader.

The first example here given is complicated by the fact that the Master of the Hospital had presented a case to a “Court Christian,” or Ecclesiastical Court, though the matter in dispute was only punishable by a lay tribunal.

At the Assize held at Northampton in the 10th year of the Novitiate of St. John the Baptist, 21 Henry 7th, about 1500, before Roger de



Present Seal of St. John's Hospital.



Ancient Seal of St. John's Hospital.

There is another early impression of this same Seal in the British Museum. It is of light brown wax, much damaged, and is attached to a Charter dated 1203. (Harl. Charters, 84 D. 18).

Dedications to the two St. Johns in conjunction are not common, but are found in Hospitals at Exeter, Newport Pagnell, Sherborne, Northampton and Leicester ; and in the church of Groombridge, Kent.

The Seal now in use dates from the time of Charles I. It is poorly executed, and represents St. John the Baptist seated, and partially draped. His left hand rests upon a lamb (to which he points with the first finger of his right hand), and over his right shoulder is a cross. Over his head is a rude representation of clouds, from which proceed rays of light which fall on the Saint's head. Round the margin is the following legend :—

“SIGIL. HOSPITAL. S^{ti} JOHANNIS BAPTISTÆ. IN VILLA
NORTHAMPTON EX FUND. CAR. REG. 1630.”

(Seal of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in Northampton of the foundation of King Charles, 1630).

ADDENDA.

It has been stated by a well-known modern writer that litigation was one of the amusements of the Religious Orders, and served to break the monotony of their lives, and gave them something to think about ! This of course is somewhat of an exaggeration, but the most cursory examination of any of the ancient Assize or De Banco Rolls will shew at a glance that lawsuits, in which “the Religious” were interested parties, were extremely common.

The Hospital of St. John was no exception to the rule, and a few examples are given below of suits in which the House was engaged during the 13th and 14th centuries. They have been extracted by the present writer from a number of De Banco and Assize Rolls, which have never been printed or calendared, and which are therefore not easily accessible to the ordinary reader.

The first example here given is complicated by the fact that the Master of the Hospital had prosecuted a man in a “Court Christian,” or Ecclesiastical Court, though the matter in dispute was only cognisable by a lay tribunal.

At the Assizes held at Northampton on the morrow of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 31 Henry III. (June 25th, 1247) before Roger de

Thurkeby and other Justices Itinerant (30*), the *Master of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton*, was summoned to answer John Malesovers for having sued him in a Court Christian (*Curia Christianitatis*) concerning chattels which did not relate to wills or matrimony, contrary to the King's prohibition. (31*) John (the plaintiff) asserted that he had handed to the defendant a prohibition from the king, at Louth, in "the 15 days" before Christmas, in the 30th year of the present king (1245), forbidding him to sue the plaintiff any further in a Court Christian. Notwithstanding which prohibition he (the Master of St. John's) had sued him in a Court Christian, before judges delegated by the Pope, at Louth, from day to day exacting from him half a mark; and he had further caused the excommunication of the said John Malesovers to be published on the day of the Circumcision of our Lord (Jany. 1st, 1245—6) next following: whence he says that he has been injured (*deterioratus est*) and damaged to the extent of 40/-, which is the cause of the present suit.

Whereupon the Master of the Hospital comes and justifies himself for the alleged injury and wrong; and urges in defence, against the plaintiff and his suit, that he had never (after receiving the king's prohibition) impleaded the said John in a Court Christian, or extracted from him any lay chattels (*laica catalla*). And this he is ready to prove against him and his suit, in whatever way the Court shall determine. The Court therefore decided that he should "move his law" by producing eleven compurgators (32*), (men ready to swear that they believed him to be innocent).

The plaintiff came first and stated his case, and afterwards came the Master of St. John's and "made his law." As a result the Master was acquitted, and John (the plaintiff) was "in mercy" for making a false accusation.

Four years later (1251) the same John Malesovers brings another action against the Master of the Hospital. In this instance he claims a quarter of a Knight's fee in Rothersthorpe as his by right. The Master appears and demands that a view (*visus*) be held. A day is given them in the *quindene* of Easter. (32†)

(30*) Assize Roll, 614 B., M. 26 (31, Henry III).

(31*) The Courts Christian administered justice in all ecclesiastical matters in any way connected with the church; and also in matters commonly designated as testamentary or matrimonial. They were constantly trying, however, to encroach on the work of the king's Courts, and disputes between the two sets of authorities were of frequent occurrence.

(32*) *Vaderet legem se duodecima Manu*, viz., that he should produce eleven others as compurgators, who would swear to his innocence by holding up their hands. The defendant's hand was the twelfth. In Northampton compurgation could only take place in the church of St. Peter's. (See Serjeantson's History of St. Peter's, pp. 17—20).

(32†) Curia Regis Roll, 145, M. 26, Michaelmas, 35—6 Henry III.

In 1274, Walter, son of Robert de Northampton, brought an action against the *Master of St. John's Hospital in Northampton*, and Philip le Messer, on a plea that they had carried away his cattle (*averia*) and unjustly detained them. (33*)

At the same Court Wm. de Carewell brought a similar action against the same two defendants. (34*) In neither case did they put in an appearance, and the sheriff was ordered to have them before the Court at Hilary-tide.

In 1278, the *Master of St. John's Hospital* acknowledges that he owes Wm. de Turvile 25 marks. He promises to pay 15 marks at the coming Feast of St. Martin, and 10 marks at the Feast of St. Stephen next following. If he fails to do so he agrees that the sheriff shall distrain on his lands and chattels. (35*)

In the same year Alice, widow of John de Hulcote, brought an action against the *Master of St. John's Hospital* in Northampton, and 19 other persons, on a plea that whereas the custody of one messuage and its appurtenances, in Tyffeld, pertains to the said Alice (until John, son and heir of John de Hulcote, attains his majority), Robert Atkins and others have forcibly (*vi et armis*) ejected the said Alice from the aforesaid messuage, broken the doors and windows of her house at Tyffeld, and seized and carried away her goods and chattels to the value of (blank) shillings, and committed other enormities to the great loss of the said Alice, and against the king's peace. The defendants did not appear, and their sureties made default. Wherefore the sheriff was ordered to distrain upon them, and to have them before the Court within one month of Easter. (36*)

In 1298, the *Master of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton* brought an action against Reginald Rok, alleging that he, and two others, had violently seized and carried off Richard, son and heir of William de Carssewell, a minor, whose marriage pertained to the said Master. The defendant did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to have him before the Court in the octave of St. Hilary (Jany. 13th). (37*)

In the following year the *Master of St. John's Hospital* pays 40/- to the king for leave to settle a suit with Wm. de Brampton, parson of the church of Piddington, concerning warrant of charter. (38*)

(33*) De Banco Rolls, Michaelmas, 2—3, Edward I., M. 35.

(34*) Ibid. M. 33.

(35*) Ibid. Michaelmas, 6 and 7, Edward I., M. 51.

(36*) De Banco Rolls, No. 26, Michaelmas, 6—7, Edward I., M. 142 d.

(37*) De Banco Roll, 125, M. 1, Michaelmas, 26—27, Edward I.

(38*) Ibid. 130, M. 341 d., Michaelmas, 27, Edward I.

In 1301 a certain Wm. Wiggen brings an action against the *Master of the Hospital* to recover £4 4s. 0d., which he alleges that he owes him, and unjustly detains. (39*)

A year later (1302) *Brother Richard, Master of the Hospital of St. John* is the plaintiff. He complains that Robert Mauntel and Henry de Kancia had seized his cattle (*averia*), and unjustly detained them. The defendants did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to produce them at Michaelmas. (40*)

In 1304, the *Master of St. John's Hospital* was summoned to answer the Abbot of St. James', without Northampton, for the payment of 50/- arrears of the annual rent of 22/-, which he owes him, etc. In connection with the suit it was asserted that a certain *Warner* (40†), *Prior of the Hospital aforesaid*, together with his Brethren of the Hospital, had granted by charter, dated November 1st, 1220, to a certain Adam (40‡), formerly Abbot St. James', and his successors, an annual pension of 20/-, to be paid half at the Feast of All Saints, and the other half at Pentecost. And also on another occasion (November 1st, 1223) the same Brother Warner and the Brothers of the Hospital had engaged themselves to pay to the same Abbot Adam, and his successors a further annual pension of 2/-, at the same two terms. The plaintiff now stated that the Master of the Hospital, before the obtaining of the writ which gave rise to this suit, viz, on 28th March, in the 31st year of the present king, [Edward I.] unjustly detained, and still detains, 50/- of the aforesaid annual pension, by which he says that he has suffered loss and damage (*deterioratus est et dampnum habet*) to the amount of 40/-, whence comes the present suit; and he produces two deeds (*scripta*) which prove the said annual pension.

The Master appears (by his attorney) and justifies the violence and injury, etc. He admits that the said writings were made by the aforesaid brother Warner and the Brethren, his predecessors, etc., but says that the said pension is not in arrears, nor was in arrears in any way at the date of the taking out of the writ, as the Abbot asserts. And concerning this he places himself upon the country (*ponit se super patriam*) (41*) and the Abbot does the same. Wherefore the sheriff is ordered to cause them both to appear at Westminster in the fifteen days of St. Hilary. A jury is

(39*) De Banco Roll, 135, M. 263, Michaelmas, 29, Edward I.

(40*) Ibid. 142, M. 22, Easter, 30, Edward I.

(40†) Warner occurs as Master of St. John's Hospital 1204 (Feet of Fines).
Thomas occurs as Master 1st Dec., 1223 (Feet of Fines).

(40‡) Adam de Duston was Abbot of St. James' 30th Oct., 1220, till his death 25th Sept., 1231.

(41*) Leaves the matter to a jury.

to be summoned (who are not related to the parties) to examine into the matter. (42*)

Next comes a suit of a more complicated nature. At Michaelmas, 1309, *Brother Richard, Master of St. John's Hospital, Northampton*, was summoned to answer Wm. Aunger, on a plea that he should acquit him of the service which Robert de Pype and Roesia his wife exact from him for the free tenement which he holds of the aforesaid Master Richard, in Hardwicke, near Orlingbury, of which the said Master Richard, who is middle man between them (*medius est inter eos*) ought to acquit him. And to substantiate this the same William (by his attorney) says that he holds of the said Master Richard, one messuage and half a virgate of land, with its appurtenances, in Hardwicke, near Orlingbury, by homage and fealty, and by service of two pounds of pepper per annum, and sixpence towards the king's scutage of 40/-, whenever it occurs, and more if it is more, and less if it less, in lieu of every service; for which services the said Master Richard ought to acquit him against all men. Notwithstanding which, the said Robert and Roesia exact of the said William suit at their Court at Hardwick, from three weeks to three weeks, and for this he has been distrained upon. And he pleads that the Master has acquitted him of this, and that he has been injured to the extent of 40/-, which is the cause of the present suit. Master Richard comes and justifies the alleged wrong and injury, and says that the aforesaid William has no right in the aforesaid tenements, except for his life by the law of England and he asks for judgment whether he ought to reply to the said writ. William is unable to deny this, and the Master therefore wins the case. William is to receive nothing, but is in the king's mercy for making a false claim. (43*)

At Michaelmas, 1321, the Master of St. John's seems to have been again in arrears with the pension due to the Abbot of St. James'. The Abbot (by his attorney, John de Wylughby) sues the *Master of St. John's Hospital, Northampton*, for 40/- arrears of the annual rent of 20/-, which he owes him. The defendant did not appear, and his goods were distrained upon to the value of 40 pence. Owing to his non-appearance his pledges were "in mercy." The sheriff was ordered, as before, to distraint upon all his lands, etc.; to cause him to be exacted from County Court to County Court; and to have him before the Court in the *quindene* of St. Hilary. (44*)

On the same roll is the record of a suit brought by the *Master of St. John's Hospital, Northampton*, against Wm. de la Chaumbre, of Hartwell,

(42*) De Banco Roll, No. 149 (Michaelmas, 32, Edward I.), M. 126.

(43*) De Banco Roll, 179, M. 87 d. (Michaelmas, 3, Edward II.)

(44*) De Banco, 240, Michaelmas, 15 Edward II., M. 82 d.; and again Michaelmas, 16, Edward II., M. 102.

clerk, on the following grounds. That although by the common council of the realm of the king it is provided that it shall not be lawful for anyone to cause waste, sale or destruction of lands, houses, woods, or gardens let to him for life or for a term of years, the said William has wasted, sold and destroyed certain houses and gardens which the aforesaid Master leased to him for life, to the disinheriting (*ad exheredacionem*) of the same Master of the Hospital of St. John in Northampton, and against the form of the Statute, etc. The defendant did not appear, and was ordered to be attached and brought into Court in the 15 days of St. Hilary (45*)

In 1326, the *Master of St. John's Hospital, Northampton*, brings an action against Peter de Wallingford, to compel him to give a reasonable account of the moneys which he received during the time that he was his Receiver (*receptor denariorum*). The defendant did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to produce him during the Octave of the Feast of the Purification (Feb. 2nd). (46*)

RALPH, THE COOK OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL.

Among the Additional Charters (47*) in the British Museum, is one which introduces us to the *Hospital Cook*. He was not a member of the Brotherhood, for he had a wife; but he was evidently a man of some little importance, as is implied by the fact of his being able to purchase property. (48*) The Charter is dated Saturday after the Feast of the Epiphany, 5 Edward I. (Jany, 1276—7). By it, Simon, son of Vincent de Rothwell, and Felicia his wife, grant to Ralph, the Cook (*Cocus*) of St. John's Hospital in Northampton, and Lecia his wife, and their heirs (for the sum of 3/4 of silver at the four common terms of the year) a house in Northampton, situated in the lane (*venella*) near the Hospital of St. John—between the tenement of the Prior of St. Andrew, and the tenement of John de Sybbeford.

The witnesses were John de Staumford (49*) (Mayor), Adam le Hosier (50*) and Robert le Rous (Bailiffs), Thomas de Lyecester, Adam de Waltham, Reginald Page and others.

(45*) De Banco Roll, 240, M. 112 (Michaelmas, 15, Edward II.)

(46*) De Banco Roll, 264, M. 332 d., Michaelmas, 20, Edward II.

(47*) Additional Charters, 22358.

(48*) The officers in the Abbot's household at Gloucester included five *lay esquires*, one of whom was *Cook*; another was the Seneschal; and a third the Marshall. (A. H. Thompson's *English Monasteries*, p. 134).

(49*) John de Stamford was Mayor, 1277, and again in 1311.

(50*) Adam le Hosier was Bailiff in 1277. Robert le Rous was Bailiff in 1277, and Mayor in 1307.

ADDITIONAL WILLS.

Various extracts from Mediæval Wills have already been given above (page 41). Since these were printed one or two other interesting items have been discovered at Somerset House :—

In 1504, Richard Green leaves "to the Hospitall of Seynt John of Northampton ii torches ; to the Bedemen and women, in Seynt Johns in the towne of Northampton, to yche of them xii^d. To the Maister of Seynt Johns, and to his company of preests there xs. ; and if it happen me to decease within the place of Saynt Johns ther, then I bequeth to the same place my best gilt cupp with the cover." He also leaves a house to the Hospital, and half his timber. "To Mr. John Parmenter of Saynt Johns, my skarlett gowne with the furre for my mortuary." (51*)

Six years later, Richard Crispe (by will dated 26th Sept., 1510) (52*) leaves "to Saynt John's House to be prayed for in the Bede roll, xx^s." Also "to the Master of Seynt John's viii^d., and to every prest iiiii^d., and ii^d. to the servants that kepe divine service."

(51*) P.C.C. 7 Holgrave.

(52*) P.C.C. 35 Bennett.

MASTERS OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL.

1. WYMOND. 1138. (30)
[Previously a Brother of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, and Chaplain to the founder, Wm. Archdeacon of Northampton].
2. WARNER. 1204 (29th August) occurs (31), and again in 1220 and 1223 (De Banco Roll 149, M. 126).
3. THOMAS. 1223 (8th December) occurs (32) ; and again 1227 (33) ; and 1234. (34)
4. JOHN DE OXYNDON. (35)

(30) Charter of Charles I. to St. John's Hospital.

(31) Feet of Fines, 6, John, case 171, file 11, No. 62. See also Harl. Charters, 84, D. 18.

(32) Feet of Fines, 8, Henry III., case 172, file 18, No. 99.

(33) Ibid. 11, Henry III., case 172, file 19, No. 131.

(34) Close Roll, 18, Henry III., M. 30 d. Also Feet of Fines, 18, Henry III., case 172, file 27.

(35) Ancient Documents (P.R.O.), C. 2059.

5. RICHARD. Instituted 1238 (36); occurs again 1247 (37); 1253 (38); 1260 (39); and 1278 (40); resigned 1280. (41)
6. WILLIAM DE COTTISBROC. Instituted 8th October, 1280 (42); died 1291. (43)
7. RICHARD DE HELMEDON. 20th November, 1291. (43) Died 1323.
8. JOHN DE UPTON. 26th August, 1323. (44)
9. WILLIAM DE PIDDINGTON. 1330 (occurs) (45); and again 1334. (46)
10. JOHN DE BOKETON Died 1349. (47)
11. JOHN DE WHATTON *alias* WHACOTE. 22nd June, 1349. (47) Died 1376.
12. JOHN DE GRAFTON. 22nd December, 1376 (48). Died 1389.
13. THOMAS DE ADYNGTON. (49) 12th March, 1389—90.
[Elected Dec., 1389, but election not confirmed till 12th March].
14. EDMUND BUCKINGHAM. Died 1406. (50)
15. HENRY PILTON. 10th December, 1406. (51) Died 1455—6.
[Vicar of Piddington till 1455—6].
16. WM. ROTE. 26th February, 1455—6. (52) Resigned 1459.
[Vicar of Piddington 1455—6 to 1459. Retired from Mastership of St. John's Hospital being "an old man and infirm of body"].
17. RICHARD EDWARDS *alias* COLE. (53) 13th Sept., 1459. Resigned 1474.

(36) Bishop Grosseteste's Rolls (Lincoln).

(37) Feet of Fines, case 173, file 36, No. 146.

(38) *Ibid.* case 173, file 38.

(39) Cartularly of St. James' Abbey, f. 124. Quoted by Bridges, I., 456, but since damaged by fire.

(40) Feet of Fines, case 174, file 52, No. 47.

(41) Bishop Sutton's Northants Roll, M. 1.

(42) Bishop Sutton's Northants Roll, M. 1.

(43) Bishop Sutton's Institutions, f. 49 d.

(44) Bishop Burghersh's Institutions, f. 170.

(45) Patent Roll, 4, Edward III.

(46) Close Roll, 8, Edward III.

(47) Bishop Gynwell's Institutions, f. 141 d.

(48) Bishop Buckingham's Institutions, vol. I., f. 206 d.

(49) Bishop Buckingham's Institutions, vol. II., f. 154.

(50) Bishop Repingdon's Institutions, f. 224.

(51) *Ibid.*

(52) Bishop Chedworth's Institutions, f. 55 d.

(53) *Ibid.* f. 52 d.

18. RICHARD SHERD. 28th February, 1474—5. (54) Resigned 1498. Buried in Hospital chapel. His name occurs in window on staircase of Hospital.
19. THOMAS PARMENTER, M.A. 25th May, 1498. (55) Resigned 1514. [Vicar of St. Giles', Northampton, 1478 to 1512, when he resigned on a pension of 4 marks. Vicar of Evenley 1st December, 1485—1487. Rector of Sywell 29th Aug., 1487].
20. WM. ATKYNSON, M.A. 26th January, 1514—5. (56) Died 1524.
21. THOMAS FREEMAN, LL.B. 9th February, 1524—5. (57) Had dispensation from Cardinal Wolsey to hold Churches of Hallaton, co. Leicester, and Hardmead, Bucks.
22. JOHN ARAS *alias* HARRYES, LL.B. 1526. (58) Resigned 1530. [LL.B. 11th March, 1508—9. Rector of Whiston 16th May, 1506 to 1541. Rector (or Curate) of Stoke Goldington 1533—1549. He died 1549].
23. RICHARD BIRDSALL. 5th Nov., 1530. (59) Resigned 1544. [Rector of Stoke Goldington 27th October, 1518 to 1533. Vicar of Preston Deanery 1526—30; Vicar of St. Michael's, Northampton, 1544; Rector of St. Peter's, Northampton, 1563—1576, when he resigned].
24. ARTHUR LOWE, B.C.L. 17th Sept., 1544. (60) Resigned 25th Aug., 1569. [B.C.L., 30th May, 1530. Rector of Syresham 7th March, 1527—8 to 1542. Rector of Great Houghton 15th April, 1550 to 1577. Buried at Great Houghton 3rd January, 1577—8. Will, P.C.C., 10 Langley].
25. ARTHUR WAKE, M.A. 26th August, 1569. (61) Died 1596. [Student of Christchurch, Oxford, 1561. B.A. 11th February, 1563—4. M.A. 25th June, 1566. Canon of Christchurch 1567. Rector of Great Billing 1565 until deprived for non-conformity 1573. He was deprived of the Mastership of St.

(54) Bishop Rotherham's Institutions, f. 44.

(55) Bishop Smith's Institutions, f. 213.

(56) Bishop Atwater's Institutions, f. 17.

(57) Bishop Longland's Institutions, f. 92.

(58) John Aras' institution to St. John's Hospital is not recorded at Lincoln; but Jane Freeman, by will dated 1526, appoints as one of her executors "Maister John Aras, Maister of St. John's in Northampton." Book C., f. 127 (Northampton Wills).

(59) Bishop Longland's Institutions, f. 111.

(60) Bishop Chambers' Register (Peterborough).

(61) Bishop Scambler's Register (Peterborough). He was presented by John Wake, Esq., and Anthony Lowe, Gent., patrons for one turn, by grant from the Bishop of Lincoln.

John's at the same time, and retired to Jersey, but managed to retain Mastership till his death, 11th July, 1596. Buried in choir of Oxford Cathedral, of which he was a Canon (1567—1596). His will dated 9th July, proved 31st July, 1596. (P.C.C., 54 Drake. He was the father of Sir Isaac Wake (1581—1632), the well-known Diplomatist].

[ROBERT CONDALL, D.D. 27th March, 1574. (62)

B.A. 7th February, 1564—5. M.A. 5th July, 1569. Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. B.D. and D.D. 22nd June, 1585. Incorporated at Cambridge 1574. Rector of Wytham, Berks., 1572. Canon of Lincoln 17th February, 1574—5 till 1612. Rector of Stoughton Parva 1573, and of Edgworth (Beds.), 1575. Archdeacon of Huntingdon 27th October, 1576. Died 1612. Buried at Edgworth 18th July, 1612. Instituted and inducted but never seems to have obtained possession of the Hospital (see above)].

26. WILLIAM WAKE, M.A. circa 1596; resigned 1638. (63)

[Student of Christchurch, Oxford, 1571. B.A. 19th February, 1573—4. M.A. 22nd May, 1577. Will dated 1st June, 1637, proved 10th February, 1645—6. P.C.C., 18 Twisse. Brother of Arthur Wake, the previous Master].

[SIR WILLIAM BOSWELL, KT. 26th October, 1629. (64) He was duly instituted *during the Mastership of Wm. Wake*, but never seems to have obtained possession, though the office was confirmed to him by the Charter of Charles I. (see above).

Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge 1606. M.A. 1607. Incorporated at Oxford 12th July, 1608. Proctor 1624. One of the Keepers of the State Paper Office. Resident Ambassador to United Provinces (Holland). Knighted at Bockstal near Baldock in Brabant 25th July, 1633. Died 1649 (see Dictionary of National Biography)].

27. GEORGE WAKE, D.C.L. 30th June, 1638. (64) Died 9th May, 1682. Third son of Sir Baldwin Wake, Bart.

[Matriculated 28th January, 1629—30, at Magdalen College, Oxford. B.A. same day. Fellow 1630—1648. M.A. 20th October, 1632. Proctor 1643—1644. Several times ejected

(62) Peterborough Induction Book. The page of the Institution Book which contained the record of his institution has been torn out, but the Index of the book shews that an institution to St. John's took place at this date.

(63) Bishop Dee's Register (Peterborough).

(64) Presentation Deeds at Lincoln, 1629, No. 34.

by Parliamentarians. D.C.L. 5th July, 1660. Advocate of Doctors Commons 1664. Chancellor of Diocese of Peterborough. Died 9th May, 1682. Buried in Hospital Chapel].

28. JOHN SKELTON, M.A. 21st July, 1682. (65) Died 3rd April, 1704.
 ["Servitor" of Queen's College, Oxford. Matriculated 24th June, 1653. B.A. 26th November, 1656. Fellow and M.A. 4th June, 1659. Chaplain to Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln. Vicar of Stixwold 1666. Rector of Scrayfield co. Lincoln 1671. Archdeacon of Bedford 15th March, 1678—9. Rector of East Wickham co. Lincoln 1680. Rector of Walgrave, Northants., 1681 to 1704. Canon of Lincoln 1683. Master of St. John's Hospital 1682—1704. Died 3rd April, 1704. Buried in Hospital Chapel. On 1st January, 1701—2 he was married in the Hospital Chapel to Isabel Hoare, of Northampton].
29. JAMES GARDINER, M.A. 20th April, 1704. Died 24th March, 1731—2. (66)
 [Son of James Gardiner, Bishop of Lincoln. B.A. from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1699. M.A. from Jesus College 1702. Incorporated at Oxford 13th July, 1703. Prebendary of Lincoln 1704 and Sub-dean 25th April, 1704. Died at Lincoln 24th March, 1731—2, and was buried in the retro-choir of the Cathedral by his father's side. A great benefactor to Lincoln Cathedral. Published several works].
30. ANTHONY REYNOLDS, M.A. 1732. Died 1751.
 [There is no record of his institution at Peterborough, but he occurs as Master of St. John's in deeds in Hospital chest dated 16th June, 1733, and at various intermediate dates, and 25th June, 1751.
 He was son of Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln, and was Registrar of the Diocese of Lincoln. Lived at Little Paxton, Hunts., and was buried there 29th December, 1751 (see above). Died intestate. Administration granted to his brother, the Rev. George Reynolds, Doctor of Laws, 6th November, 1752. P.C.C.]
31. JOHN KERRICH, M.D. 1st February, 1752, (67) Died 9th October, 1762.
 [A doctor. Lived at Bury St. Edmunds, and was buried there (see above). Will dated 15th May, 1751. Proved 29th December, 1762. P.C.C., 512, St. Eloy].

(65) Bishop Lloyd's Register (Peterborough).

(66) Bishop Cumberland's Register (Peterborough).

(67) Bishop Thomas' Register (Peterborough).

32. ROBERT DOWBIGGIN, M.A. 9th December, 1762. (68). Died 19th November, 1794.
 [St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1760. M.A. 1763. D.D. 1786. Rector of Wappenham 14th July, 1766, till 1794. Sub-dean of Lincoln 28th June, 1769. Prebendary of Lincoln 8th August, 1769. Rector of Gayhurst, Bucks., 16th April, 1766—1794. Rector of Stoke Goldington, Bucks, 16th April, 1766, till his death. Master of Retford Hospital, Notts. Died at Stoke Goldington 19th November, 1794, aged 57. Buried there in chancel].
33. GEORGE HUBBARD, Gent. 21st March, 1795. (69) Compelled to resign 8th July, 1814 (see above).
 [A doctor in Bury St. Edmunds. Died August 1st, 1821, and was buried at Bury St. Edmunds].
34. RICHARD PRETYMAN, M.A. 9th July, 1814. (70) Died 25th March, 1866. (Son of George Pretyman, Bishop of Lincoln and afterwards of Winchester).
 [Of Trinity College, Cambridge. B.A. 1814. M.A. 1817. Canon Residentiary and Precentor of Lincoln 9th June, 1817, till his death in 1866. Rector of Walgrave 1817—1866, and of Middleton Stoney, Oxford, 1819—1866. Died at Middleton Stoney 25th March, 1866, aged 73, and was buried there. Will proved at Oxford].
35. NATHANIEL THOMAS HUGHES, M.A. 18th August, 1871. (71)
 [Matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, 20th November, 1852, aged 18. Scholar 1854—8. B.A. 1857. M.A. 1870. Vicar of St. Edmund's, Northampton, 1870—92. Hon. Canon of Peterborough 1883. Vicar of Hardingstone 1892. Rural Dean of Northampton 1897—1912].

(68) Bishop Terrick's Register (Peterborough).

(69) Register of Bishop Madan (Peterborough).

(70) Register of Bishop Parsons (Peterborough).

(71) Register of Bishop Magee (Peterborough).

