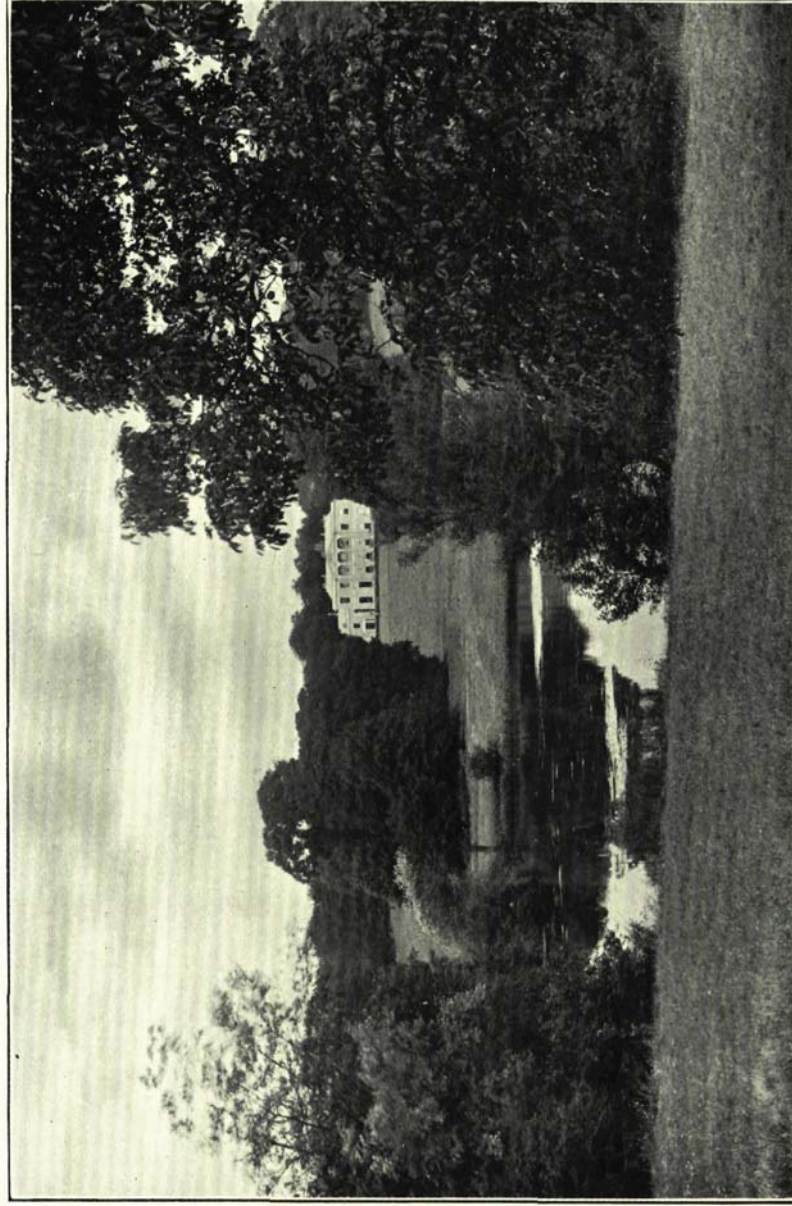


HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



LAVERSTOKE HOUSE.

THE MANORS AND CHURCHES
OF
LAVERSTOKE AND FREEFOLK.

A PAPER READ BY
SIR WILLIAM W. PORTAL, BART., M.A., D.L., J.P., F.S.A.,
At a meeting of the Hampshire Field Club, held at
Laverstoke, on May 31st, 1907.

I.

THE MANOR OF LAVERSTOKE.

We learn from the Domesday Book that "The Abbey of St. Peter (Hyde Abbey, Winchester), held Lavrochestoke in the Hundred of Overton. Ulveva Beteslau held it of the abbey for life, and, after his death, King William restored this manor to the same church for the repose of his own soul and of his wife's soul. It was assessed in the time of King Edward at ten hides, and now at six hides and half a yard land. Here are six ploughlands, two in demesne, and seven villiens and nineteen borderers with five ploughlands; also a church and three servants and two mills, worth fourteen shillings, and three acres of meadow. Its value in the time of King Edward was £7, afterwards and now (*i.e.* 1086) £8."

The *Liber Vitæ*, or register of Hyde Abbey, in the list of lands held by the New Minister in Hampshire, gives "Lavrochestoke" in Overtune Hundred as amongst the number.

The confiscation of this manor and its subsequent restoration to the abbey, as mentioned in Domesday, may be explained by the fact that the abbot Alwy or Alywn, brother of Earl Godwin and uncle of King Harold, threw his whole influence onto Harold's side to oppose the Norman invasion. He headed a band of his Benedictines and men-at-arms and fought gallantly on the field at Hastings. The Conqueror, by

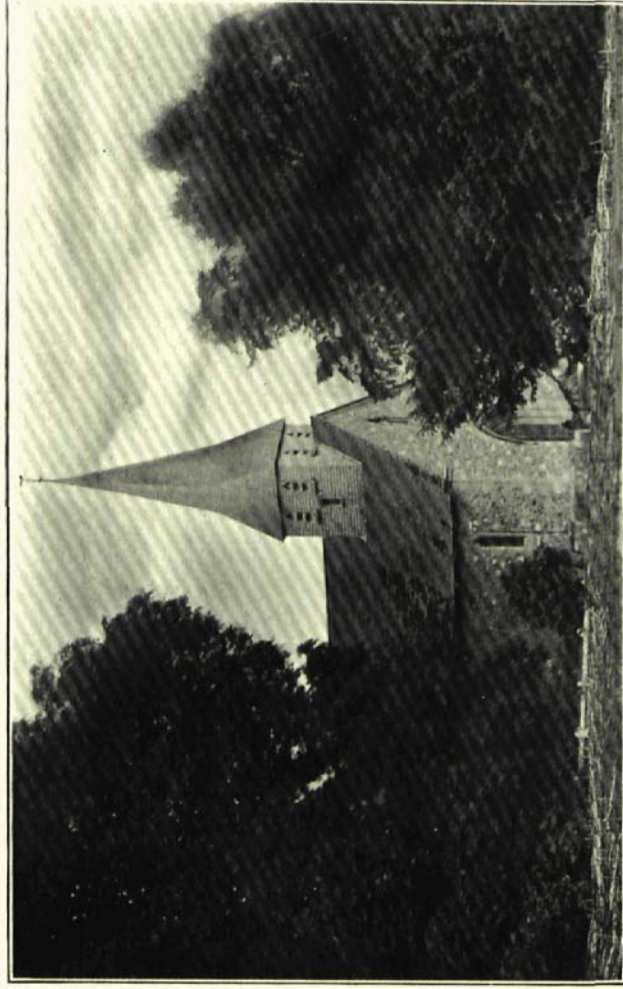
way of punishment, forfeited a number of the manors of the abbey, and amongst them that of Lavrochestoke, but he afterwards restored the manor, as above stated.

We learn from the *Testa de Nevill* (1272) that "Petronella de Laverstoke held of the Abbey of Hyde half a hide of land at Laverstoke, Hants, at a rent of ten shillings for all service." Other tenants at this time were Godardus de la Pole and Galfridus Niger, who each held one virgate at a rent of five shillings, and Johannes de Clive, who also held one virgate.

Dugdale, quoting the Cartulary of Hyde Abbey, tells us that Edward III. granted a right of free warren to Hyde Abbey over the lands which they held at Laverstoke.

After the dissolution of the monastery of Hyde in 1538, Henry VIII., by deed dated 13th March, 1539, granted "The manor of Laverstoke, otherwise called Larkstoche, late belonging to the monastery of Hyde at Winton and the perpetual advowson of the parish church of Laverstoke to Richard Andrews of Freefolk." After the death of Richard Andrews and a partition of his estate among his three daughters and co-heirs, the manor and advowson of Laverstoke became the property of Sir Thomas Lambert, Kt., grandson and heir of Constance, daughter of Richard Andrews. On 13th February, 1620, a grant, under the Great Seal of England, of the right of free warren in the manor of Laverstoke was given to Thomas Lambert of the said manor and his heirs and assigns, together with the right of stocking the same with red and fallow deer, hares, pheasants, &c., and other beasts and birds. This grant, with the impression of the Great Seal attached, as also King Henry VIII.'s grant to Richard Andrews, are in the muniment room at Laverstoke House. The manor of Laverstoke was subsequently sold by Robert, son of Thomas Lambert, in 1649 to John Trott, who died in 1658, and was succeeded by his son, Sir John Trott, Bart., who died in 1672. His daughter and heiress, Katherine, married Sir Hugh Stukley, Bart., of Hinton Ampner, in Hants, and died 21st October, 1679. Their only daughter and heiress, Catherine, was married May 20th, 1691, to Sir Charles Shuckburgh, Bart., of Shuckburgh in Warwickshire, who thus became owner of Laverstoke in the 3rd year of the reign of William and Mary. The manor and advowson remained in the possession of that family until 1754, when it was sold by Sir Stewkley Shuck-

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



THE OLD PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, LAVERSTOKE.
(Now the Mortuary Chapel of the Portal Family.)

burgh, Bart., the grandson of Sir Charles Shuckburgh, to James Dawkins. He retained it for only five years, and in 1759 sold it to Joseph Portal, of Freefolk Priors, the son of Henri Portal, the Huguenot refugee, who was the first of the Portal family to settle in Hampshire. The owners of the manor and advowson of Laverstoke (as also of Freefolk), since the death of Joseph Portal in 1793, have been :—(1) Harry Portal, his eldest son, a captain in the 10th Hussars, who died unmarried in 1801. It was he who erected the existing Laverstoke House in 1798, from the designs of Bonomi, a well-known architect of that time. The former Laverstoke House, which was then demolished, was a brick-built late Tudor edifice with gabled and mullioned windows. It stood on the lower ground in the Park, near the south-western side of the old parish church of St. Mary. (2) William Portal, the second son of Joseph Portal, who died, leaving no son, in 1846. (3) John Portal, the youngest son of Joseph Portal, who died in 1848. (4) Melville Portal, eldest son of John Portal, who died in 1904. (5) Sir Wyndham Portal, Bart., younger brother of Mr. Melville Portal, who died in 1905. (6) Sir William W. Portal, Bart., eldest son of Sir Wyndham Portal.

II.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, LAVERSTOKE (Now the Mortuary Chapel of the Portal Family).

There is no record of the date of the building of the parish church of Laverstoke. The edifice is, however, of the Early English period, and is probably on the same site as the original church mentioned in Domesday as then in existence. In part, indeed, it may be the same building. On the north side of the church is a pre-Norman flat-headed doorway, having a dial on the face of the stone head, and on the south side a circular depressed-headed doorway, the jambs of which are regarded by Mr. Jackson, R.A., as of Norman date. The Early English chancel arch is constructed in chalk, as is frequently the case in chalk districts. The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin.

The registers date from 1656. The earliest is inscribed "A true Register of all the Christenings, Weddings, and Burials within the Parish of Laverstoke in y^e County of Southampton from the first day of August Anno Dom. 1656." There is a blank from 1754 to 1760 in the marriage register. Many of the entries both of baptisms and burials in the early registers relate to the services performed in Freefolk Chapel, there being no parish register in what was called "The Free Chapel of Freefolk Syfrewast." There are several entries of the baptism of the children of Sir Hugh Stukeley and of Sir Charles Shuckburgh in the 17th century. Amongst them is the following:—"May 29, 1695. Born and baptized y^e same day Richard y^e sonn of Sir Charles Shuckburgh and Diana his wife. May y^e day be as auspicious in particulars to y^e infant as 'twas once in generall to y^e whole Naon in y^e birth and Restaon of Charles y^e Second, so prayeth H.H." (Henry Holloway, Rector): An Act of Parliament was passed in 1677 entitled "An Act for Burying in Woollen only, for the lessening the Importation of Linen from beyond the Seas, and the encouragement of the Woollen and Paper Manufactures of this Kingdom." And another Act was passed in 1679, entitled "An additional Act for Burying in Woollen," whereby it was enacted that "no person or persons shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything whatsoever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver, or in any stuff, or thing other than what is made of sheep's wool only, or be put in any coffin lined or faced with any sort of cloth or stuff, or anything whatsoever that is made of any material but sheep's wool only, upon pain of the forfeiture of five pounds of lawful money of England, to be recovered as is hereafter directed by this Act." Hence we find after the above date many entries in the Laverstoke registers like the following:—"Mr. Philip Baker, late rector of this parish was buried here March y^e 9th, 1690. A certificate y^t he was buried in woollen according to law, under the hand of Mr. Joseph Wood, vicar of Whitchurch, was delivered to the churchwarden, John Lempster March y^e 14th following." Both of the above Acts were repealed in 1814.

There is a memorandum in 1705 that "Y^e Honble. Sir Charles Shuckburgh dyed at Winchester Sept. 3rd, and was brought thro' Laverstoke to be interred at Shuckburgh, Sept. y^e 7th, 1705." An Act was passed in 1783 for "Granting His

Majesty a Stamp Duty of three pence on the Registry of Burials, Marriages, Births, and Christenings," and we find an entry in each of the registers that "from and after the second day of October, 1783, a duty of three pence on every entry in the register takes place according to Act of Parliament." Henceforward, after most of such entries until 1794, when the Act was repealed, we find the words added: "Duty paid." In 1791 and subsequent years there are several entries of children who, having been privately baptized at Freefolk Chapel, were now "received into the Church." In 1792 there is an entry, "James Austen, clerk of the Parish of Steventon, and Anne Matthew of this parish, spinster, were married in this Church by license, the 27th March, 1792, by me George Austen, Rector of Steventon." The above Rev. George Austen, rector of Steventon, was the father of Jane Austen, the authoress, who was born at Steventon Rectory, December 16th, 1775. The above Rev. James Austen, who succeeded him as rector of Steventon, was the brother of Jane Austen, the novelist.

From the *Registry of the Archdeaconry of Winchester* we learn that the following was "An Inventory of all the Goods belonging to Laverstoke Church, May 7th, 1720: (1) A Pulpitt Cushion and Cloth. (2) A Surplice and Cloth for Communion. (3) A Church Bible and Common Prayer Book. (4) One Bell (the inscription being "This Bell was made 1624.") (5) A Silver Cupp and Patten. (6) A Beere. One Mervall Vant. (7) A Communion Table." The "Silver Cupp" above mentioned has the hall mark of 1669, and is engraved with the arms of Sir John Trott, Bart., "Leuerstoke June 1670." The "Silver Patten" has the same hall mark, and is inscribed in the same terms. The church has also two other silver pattens, dated 1718, which are inscribed respectively, "The Gift of Miss Collins for the use of Laverstock Parish, 1738," and "The Gift of Miss Mordaunt for the use of Laverstoke Parish, 1738." The "Mervall Vant" mentioned in the above inventory is a rendering, in Wessex dialect, of the "marble font." In the churchwardens' accounts for the neighbouring parish of Andover (1471) the font is frequently called a "vant," and "mervall" is to this day a common pronounciation of "marble" in the southern counties.

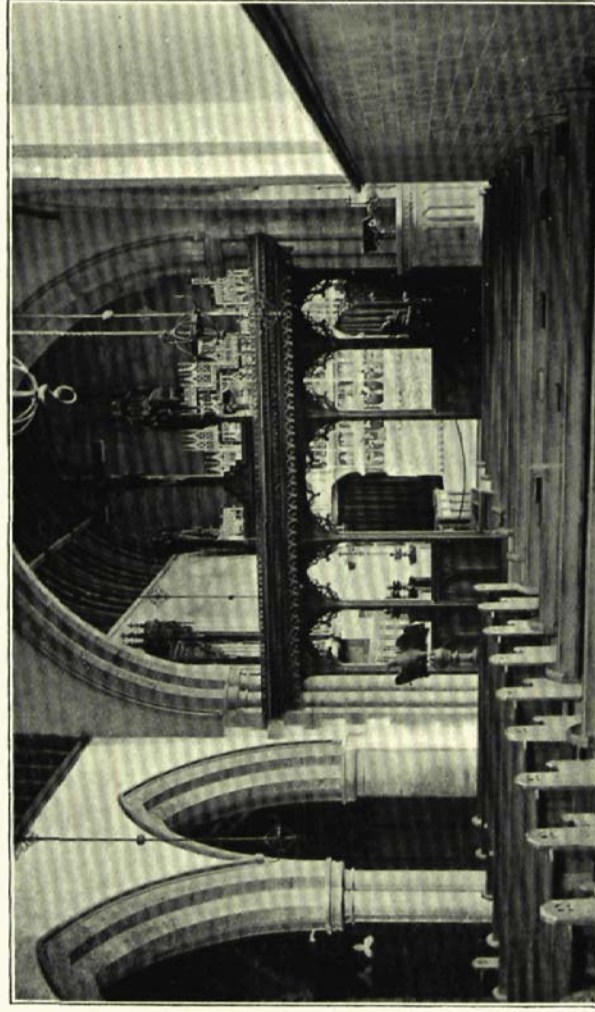
The list of rectors of the Parish of Laverstoke, taken from the *Diocesan Registry* at Winchester, commences with William de Cryche in 1289. A citation, dated 2nd June, 1293, mentions that he had held the church four years, and had not taken priest's orders in accordance with the constitution of the Council of Lyons. The cure of the church was committed to Gilbert de Rochester until this irregularity should be rectified. William de Cryche was apparently not of lawful age. He had letters dimissory, and was ordained deacon by the Archbishop of Canterbury on September 22nd, 1296. He continued rector of Laverstoke for many years, for we find that on April 7th, 1348, he had license from Bishop Edyndon to let his church to farm for one year. From the time of William de Cryche the list of the rectors of Laverstoke is complete down to the present day. The abbot and prior of Hyde were the patrons continuously until 1529.

Previous to 1850 there was neither parsonage house nor school house in the parish. The rectors were generally incumbents of some other parish in the neighbourhood, and lived, for the most part, at some distance from Laverstoke. The only service in the church was matins on Sunday at 1.30 p.m.

The nave of the church was occupied by several square pews, which were set apart for the lord of the manor, his tenants and servants. The exclusive use of the chancel was consigned to the labourers, for whom benches were provided, and the altar was used by them as the depository of their hats and coats. The singing was under the sole charge of the parish clerk, who proclaimed any necessary notices, announced the Psalms, and with the aid of a flautolet led the congregation through the mysteries of Tate and Brady. It was the custom in those days for the labourers to await in the churchyard the arrival of the minister, and it was quite understood that the service would not be commenced until the squire appeared, who was immediately preceded by a footman carrying a large bag containing prayer books for the use of the family.

Until 1851 the rectors had for at least a century been paid a sum of £60 per annum by the lord of the manor, in lieu of all tithes; but in that year it was agreed that the parish should be brought within the provisions of the Tithe Communication Act, and on the 12th June, 1851, an award was

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



THE NEW PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, LAVERSTOKE.
(*John Pearson, R.A., Architect.*)

made by the Tithe Commissioners that the tithe should be commuted at £180 per annum. In 1858 a parsonage house, and in 1860 a new school house, from the design of G. Street, Esq., R.A., were built by the patron, Mr. Melville Portal. Up to that time the wife of the squire's gardener, without regard to any special qualification on her part, was required, as a matter of course, in virtue of her position, to undertake the duties of school mistress.

At a court held at Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, on August 9th, 1872, an order of Privy Council was made and published in the *London Gazette* of August 13th, 1872, whereby, after reciting "that the Right Rev. Samuel Lord Bishop of Winchester, had represented that the rectory of Laverstoke and the vicarage or perpetual curacy of Freefolk Syfrewaste in the same county and diocese being to each other, and of which the aggregate population according to the last census does not exceed four hundred and fifty persons, and the aggregate yearly value does not exceed two hundred and sixty pounds, might with advantage to the interests of religion be united into one benefice, and that Melville Portal of Laverstoke House, in the said county of Southampton, Esquire, the patron or person entitled to present to the benefice of Laverstoke and to the benefice of Freefolk Syfrewaste in case the same were now vacant, is consenting to the union of the said benefices," it was ordered "that the said rectory of Laverstoke, in the county of Southampton and diocese of Winchester, with the said vicarage or perpetual curacy of Freefolk Syfrewaste, in the same county and diocese, shall be united into one benefice with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only." From this time the benefice became the united benefice of Laverstoke-cum-Freefolk. On the 15th November, 1872, upon application of Melville Portal of Laverstoke, patron of the said united benefice of Laverstoke cum Freefolk, and with the unanimous consent of the vestry, a faculty was granted by Samuel, Lord Bishop of Winchester, declaring that "the church of Freefolk Syfrewaste shall from henceforth be the parish church of the united benefice of the rectory of Laverstoke and the vicarage or perpetual curacy of Freefolk Syfrewaste aforesaid, and that the church of St. Mary, Laverstoke, shall from henceforth be a mortuary chapel only." The conversion of the old church of St. Mary, Laverstoke,

into a mortuary chapel was completed in 1876 by Mr. Melville Portal, under the direction of Mr. Woodyer, as architect, at a cost of about £2,000.

The mosaic pavement of the church is copied from one at St. Mark's at Venice. The crucifix above the altar is from Munich. The hanging lamps before the altar and at the entrance of the vault of the Portal family are from Florence. There are some well-designed monuments of the Jacobean period in the chancel, especially that of John Trott of Laverstoke, who died in 1658, and of Katherine his wife, who died in 1661. On John Trott's monument appear the following lines:—

"Hee wrongs the dead who thinks this marble frame
Was built to be the Guardian of his name,
Whereas 'twas for his Ashes only meant;
His Name is sett to guard the Monum^t."

There are also monuments to Sir John Trott of Laverstoke, Bart., son of the above, who died in 1672, and to his wife Elizabeth; also to their sons John and Edmund Trott, who died in 1664 and 1667 respectively. Beneath the inscription of his wife Elizabeth are written these verses:—

"Wealthy with Witt, with Beauty gracious, Shee
Liv'd in A Prudent Generosity.
What ere Shee had, what ere Shee wanted, still
Shee owned the Giver, waited Heavn's Will.
Worn out with Age, more than ye usuall Date,
At last Shee yielded to ye Common fgate."

The two cenotaphs in the nave are in memory of Jean Francois de Portal, the first of the name who settled in England, and who died in 1704, and of Henri Portal, his son, the first of the family who settled in Freefolk, and who built Laverstoke mill. He was buried in the parish church of Whitchurch. There are many fine mural tablets on the walls of the nave; amongst them one to Joseph Portal (son of Henri Portal), who died 1793, aged, aged 74. He acquired the manors of Laverstoke and Freefolk. With regard to his funeral the following instructions are attached to his will:—
"To be interred under the great house seat in Laverstoke Church, only a plain marble table over it like that for my father in Whitchurch church; no hearse, and only my own carriage, and to be carried by nine of my own servants, and they to have a guinea apiece." There is a tablet to Sarah his

wife, who died 1802, aged 81. Also one in memory of William Portal of Laverstoke, son of Joseph and Sarah, who died in 1846, aged 91; and another of John Portal, who succeeded him, and died in 1848, aged 84 years, and of Elizabeth his widow (daughter of Henry Drummond, of the Grange, Hants, and of Anne his wife, daughter of Henry Dundas, first Vicount Melville), who died 1877, aged 79 years. There is, too, a tablet of finely carved alabaster in remembrance of Sir Gerald Portal, K.C.M.G., the son of Mr. Melville Portal, whose own memorial and that of Lady Charlotte Portal immediately adjoins it. Mr. Melville Portal died in 1904, aged 84. All the above-named, together with other members of the family, are buried in the vault.

III.

FREEFOLK SYFREWAST OR FREEFOLK MANOR.

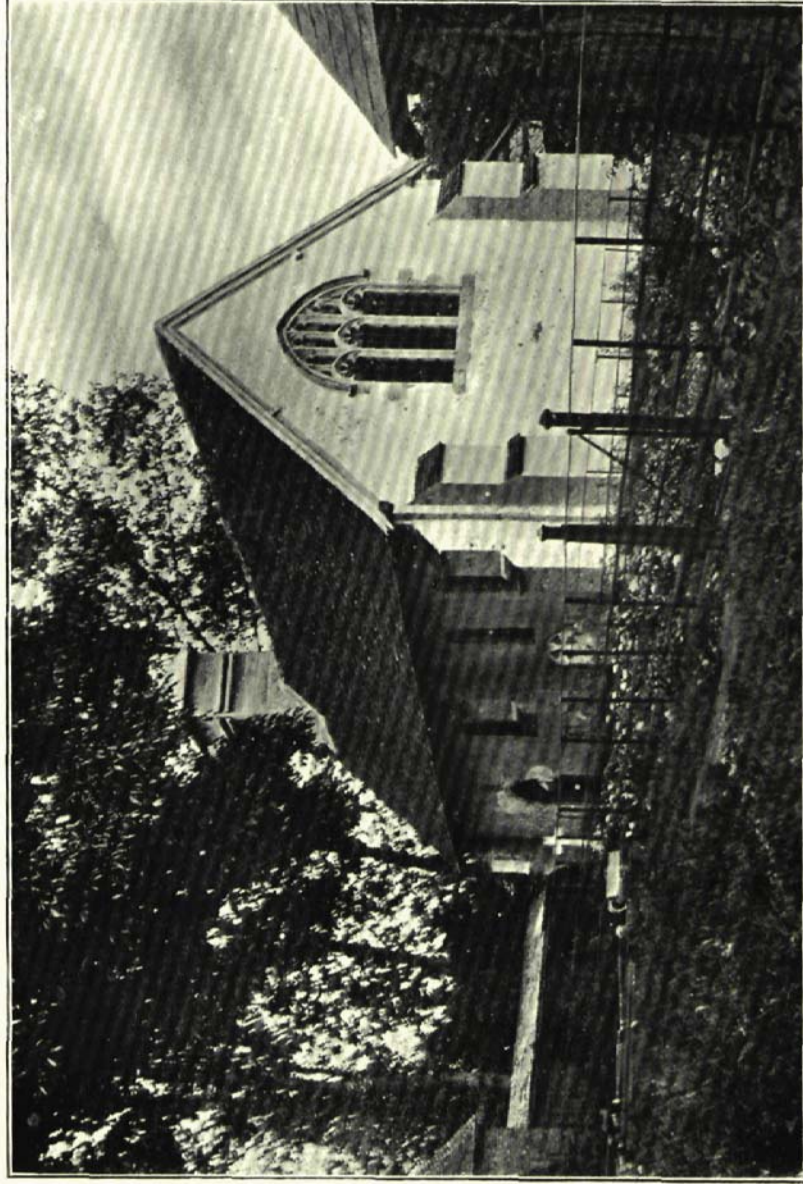
The name "Freefolk" is of great antiquity. It signifies the people or folk of Friya or Frija, the Scandinavian and Saxon Venus, the goddess from whom we derive the word "Friday." The inhabitants of Freefolk were called Freya or Friga folk as late as 1086, when the Domesday Book was written. That book mentions Freefolk manor as being part of the manor of Whitchurch, which belonged to the priory of S. Swithun, and as being held by Radulph, the son of Seifride, and states that it was intended for the support of the monks. Ednod held it of the Bishop, and it was then termed "Frige folc." The record runs:—"It was then assessed at nine hides, it is now assessed at four hides; here are five ploughlands, two ploughlands are in demesne, and two villeins and seventeen borderers employing two ploughs. Here are five servants and a mill which is let at twenty shillings, and four acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward and after it was worth £16; it is now worth £10."

In the 13th century this manor was known by the name of Syfrewast, and in the deeds of the Brocas family we find that Robert de Syfrewast, who was connected with them by marriage, was seised of two knights' fees in this country. Freefolk Manor is still legally termed, "Freefolk Syfrewast." The manor subsequently descended in succession to the families of Hussey, Peverel, Ludlow, Somers, and Shotesbroke.

The priory of S. Swithun at Winchester held property in the parish, and by a deed of 10th Nov., 1446, an exchange was made for ninety-nine years between the prior of St. Swithun and John Rogers of Freefolk, of some of this property. On the 19th January, 1456, the remainder of the manor was granted by Sir Robert Shotesbroke, who then owned it, to the same John Rogers the Elder, and to Richard Andrews. John Rogers the Elder was living in 1487, and his name occurs in the *Pipe Roll* of Bishop Courtenay for that year. Richard Andrews acquired the manor through his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Rogers the younger. Her sister and co-heir, Anne Rogers, married John Brocas of Beaurepaire, in Hampshire. Richard Andrews died before the year 1547, and his manors of Freefolk and Chalgrave descended to his three daughters and co-heirs: Catherine, the wife of John Powlett of Herriard; Constance, the wife of Richard Lambert; and Ursula, the wife of Henry Norris. On the death of Ursula Norris, Catherine, then the widow of John Powlett, and Thomas Lambert, son and heir of Constance and Richard Lambert, then both deceased, became each entitled to a moiety, and on July 17th, 1582, made a partition; Catherine Powlett took the Manors of Freefolk and Chalgrave, and Thomas Lambert (subsequently, in 1620, Sir Thomas Lambert, Kt.) took Laverstoke with the rent charge of £20 per annum charged on Freefolk. After this partition Freefolk continued in the possession of the Powletts until they ended in two co-heirs. Anne, married to John Jervoise, who, through her, became possessed of Herriard in this county, and Louisa, married to Sir Thomas Jervoise, of Chilmarsh in Shropshire, who became possessed of Freefolk. In the year 1637, Freefolk manor was settled by Sir Thomas Jervoise of Herriard on his son Richard Jervoise, who married Frances, daughter and co-heir of Sir George Corke, Justice of the King's Bench. She afterwards married Sir Giles Hungerford, Kt., who died in 1684.

In 1683, the manor of Freefolk was sold to Thomas Deane. His daughter and heiress, Jane Deane, married Sir John Cullum, Bart., of Hardwick, in 1728, and in 1769 it was sold to Joseph Portal, of Freefolk Priors, the son of Henri Portal, the Huguenot refugee, who had ten years previously purchased the manor of Laverstoke.

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



FREEFOLK CHAPEL.

IV.

THE CHAPEL OF FREEFOLK MANOR.

The advowson and tithes of Freefolk manor were part of the possessions of the see of Winchester, from which they were dissevered in the early part of the 12th century (1157) by Cardinal Henry of Blois, bishop of Winchester, when he founded the hospital of St. Cross, and endowed it with some of the rectories in his patronage. He constituted the master and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, guardians and administrators of St. Cross, saving to the bishop of Winchester his canonical jurisdiction. On the 19th March, 1187, Pope Clement III., by a bull of that date addressed to the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (then responsible for the custody and management of the hospital of St. Cross) agreed that "whatever possessions or goods the said house then justly and canonically possessed, or should in future possess, should remain firm and pure to the said Prior and his successors." He expressed in specific terms those possessions, which were, "the gift of Henry, the founder of the same hospital, of good memory, bishop of Winchester," and among them he names "In Hampshire the church of Whitchurch with the chapel of Freefolk." Again, in 1191, Pope Celestine III., by a bull issued in that year to the prior and brethren of St. Cross, took into the protection of St. Peter, the hospital of St. Cross and all its appurtenances, ordaining that "all its possessions should remain firm and undamnified to them and their successors." In this bull he mentioned these particulars from the gift of Henry the founder, sometime Bishop of Winchester, to wit *inter alia*: "In Hantshire the church of Whitchurch with the chapel of Freefolk."

The existence in early days of this "Chapel of Freefolk," which was dedicated to St. Nicholas, is thus fully established, but it seems probable that during the course of the ensuing eighty years it may have fallen into ruin. At all events the next mention of a chapel, presumably at Freefolk, is in the year 1271, when Pope Clement IV. issued from Viterbo a bull, of which the following is a literal translation:—"Clement, Bishop, servant of the servants of God, to our venerable brother the Archbishop of Canterbury, health and happiness. A noble man one William of Chalgrave of the diocese of

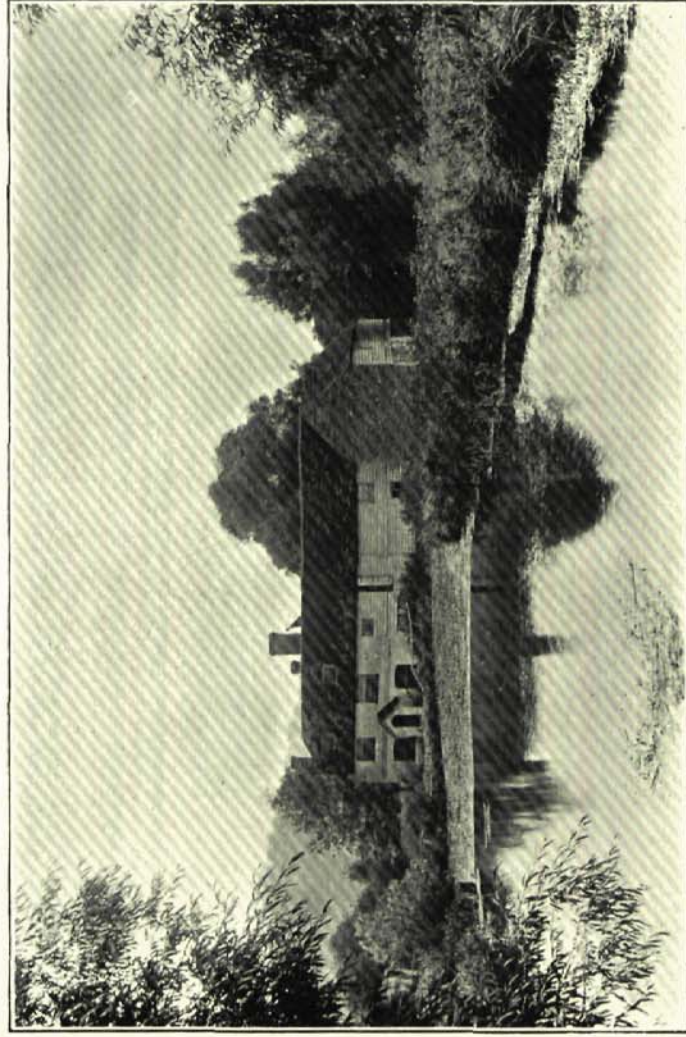
Winchester has humbly petitioned us, as he is so far from his parish church that he cannot on account of floods, especially in the winter time and other great risks, conveniently go to hear the divine offices and receive the sacraments of the church; that he may build a chapel on his own estate and have a chaplain attached to it, to whom for his maintenance he is prepared to assign a sufficient allowance of his own goods, if he will consent to grant him permission. As, however, the Bishop of Winchester is working at present at a great distance, we trust the application to thy brotherly care to grant so much as thou deemest expedient, without injury to another, to this noble man with reference to what he offers and asks. Given at Viterbo on the ides of October, in the third year of the pontificate."

This bull, a copy of which was found among the muniments at Herriard, is endorsed, "Pope Clement's Bull for Freefolk Chapple, 1265." The endorsement is in error as to the actual date, as Pope Clement IV. succeeded to the pontificate in 1268, and the third year would be in 1271.

The advowson of the "Free Chapelry" of Freefolk Syfrewast remained in the gift of the hospital of St. Cross till the middle of the 19th century, when the parishes of Laverstoke and of Freefolk Syfrewast were, as we have seen, united into one benefice "for ecclesiastical purposes only," and the patronage was acquired by Mr. Melville Portal. The orders of the Privy Council which authorized these arrangements are dated respectively 29th July, 1859, and 9th August, 1872. The tithes still remain in the possession of the hospital of St. Cross. Baptisms, marriages, and burials were from time to time performed in the chapel, but, there being no parish register, they were recorded in the registers of the adjoining parishes of Whitchurch or Laverstoke.

The first of the Portal family who settled in England was Henri Portal, a Huguenot refugee, who after acquiring a knowledge of paper-making at South Stoneham mill (now a corn mill belonging to Mr. Gater), was naturalized at the Court of Quarter Sessions at Winchester in 1711. He settled at Bare mill in this Parish, where assisted by French workmen whom he brought from South Stoneham, he carried on the art of paper-making, and in 1724 was entrusted with the manufacture of the notes of the Bank.

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



BARE MILL, IN THE PARISH OF FREEFOLK.
Henri Portal's residence, after his Naturalization, in 1711.

of England. He obtained a lease of Laverstoke mill, which he re-built for the purposes of his business in 1719. A memorandum book in his handwriting at Laverstoke House records the birth and death of his eldest son, Henry Portal, in the following terms:—"Henry Portal, borne at Bare mill, also in ye sd. parish (of freefolk say free west) January 23rd, 1717—8, being a Thursday about eleven o'clock in ye evening, and was onely private baptised and dyed ye very Thursday following, much about ye time he was borne, and buried in Frifolk Chapell." The memorandum book also records the baptism in "Frifolk Chapell" of Henri Portal's daughters, Elizabeth, Anne, and Martha Sharlotte.

A fine altar tomb of the date 1614, with a recumbent effigy of Sir Richard Paulet, Kt., of Herriard, having above it his helmet and spur, was carefully repaired and removed to the new parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, when that church was consecrated and opened, and when this chapel was closed in 1895. Some traces of frescoes are to be seen on the north side. In 1904, Freefolk chapel was in a lamentable condition, subsidences having appeared in the western wall, and the roof requiring thorough repair. It was carefully renovated by the patron, the late Sir Wyndham Portal, and it will henceforward long remain, we may hope, an interesting memorial of the piety of ancient days.
