

CHURCH GOODS IN HAMPSHIRE IN A.D. 1549.

TRANSCRIBED BY THEODORE CRAIB, WITH ADDITIONAL
NOTES BY J. HAUTENVILLE COPE.

IN a former number of the Proceedings (Vol. VII), I wrote that commissioners were appointed by the Crown in 1549 to make surveys of the "goods" of each parish church within the kingdom. Few of these lists are in existence. Fortunately, the return for Hampshire is preserved in the Public Record Office. This document has been transcribed by Mr. Theodore Craib, a well-known authority on the subject, through whose generosity it is now printed. The Club is much indebted to him, for it is no easy task to transcribe these old documents.

The Crown had already received a considerable amount of church plate from the dissolved monasteries, and it was feared that a similar confiscation might be made of the goods of parish churches as is shown by the list of grievances presented to Henry VIII by the Lincolnshire rebels in 1536.¹ It was not, however, until after the alterations in the ritual, which were introduced in the reign of Edward VI, that the seizure of parochial church goods became perhaps inevitable. In many instances the parishioners were taking the law into their own hands and removing or selling the property of their churches.

To put a stop to all unauthorized pillage of the churches, the Privy Council issued the following order to the bishops, in which they were directed to find out from their clergy what valuables had been removed, by whom this was done, and who had benefited by the sale of any of these things. It is dated

¹ Gasquet, "Henry VIII and the English Monasteries" (popular edition), pp. 202-3; "Dio. Hist. Lincoln" (S.P.C.K.), p. 222.

October 17th, 1547, and is worded in this wise :—" Sundry persons upon some vain, brutish, or rather their own rashness, have now lately attempted in several places of the realm to make sale of the ornaments of the plate, jewels and bells of sundry churches : wherein as they have demeaned themselves otherwise than became them, and given a very ill example, we, thinking it convenient both to have a stay made that the like be not henceforth attempted, and also to have perfect knowledge how and to what uses the money received for any of the things aforesaid hath been employed : we have thought good to require you that, unless the King's Majesty's commissioners for the Visitation have already taken order therein, ye cause due search and inquiry to be undelayedly made by your ministers, what hath been taken away, sold or alienated out of any church or chapel of your diocese, and by whom, and to what uses the money growing thereupon hath been employed."¹

Only two returns forwarded by the bishops are to be found in the Public Record Office : one from the Bishop of Chester, dated January 12th, 1548, entitled " Account by John Bird bishop of Chester of the sale of church ornaments within the diocese of Chester and the appropriations therof."² The other is from Edmund Bonner, Bishop of London, dated 1548. (in this case neither the month nor the day is given) :—" The certificate of the churchwardens of the city of London and the deaneries of Essex and Hertfordshire of the sale of all the church plate, ornaments, jewels, bells, and vestments."³

Similar returns exist possibly in the archives of some of the dioceses.

This order of the Privy Council produced in the popular mind the idea that the churches were going to be robbed. As the Council at this time issued directions that plate, etc., which had been removed should be restored to the churches, it looks as if at this date the Government were not casting

¹ Wilkins' " Concilia," IV, p. 17.

² Calendar State Papers (Domestic), 1547-1580, p. 6.

³ *Ibid.* p. 12.

covetous eyes at these valuables. In the face of later events, one cannot but think that the object of these orders was to secure for the Crown all that was worth having. Perhaps the temper of the people was too forcibly expressed, and another Lincolnshire rising was feared.¹ In the parish of Penrith, Cornwall, the inhabitants resisted the making of an inventory of the contents of their church, and were only appeased by the Council assuring them the object of obtaining this information was to preserve the "church jewels and prohibit private sales."²

Finding that the instructions already issued to the bishops, as well as the orders for replacing the ornaments, etc., taken out of the churches, were not being obeyed, the Council determined to enforce their commands by appointing in 1549 the sheriff and justices of each county to be commissioners to make true inventories of all church plate, jewels, bells, and vestments, and to forbid the sale or embezzlement of any of these things. The terms of the directions are very stringent, and are as follows:—

"Whereas the King had been advertised that a great number of his subjects, forgetting their bounden duty of obedience, have presumed contrary to His Highness' command, to alien and sell away the vestments, plate, jewels and ornaments, and in many cases the bells of their churches and chapels, applying the money thereof either to their own uses or to such other private uses as they themselves listed, by occasion whereof such contention and variance hath been and daily doth grow and arise in sundry places among His Majesty's subjects. His Majesty, minding to have a speedy order or stay set herein, in all places, etc., has appointed the said sheriff and justices of the peace jointly and severally to be his commissioners in the said county for this purpose. And for the doing whereof His Majesty's pleasure is, that the Commissioners assembling themselves together in some convenient place within their shire and considering well the effect

¹ "Acts of the Privy Council, 1547-50," pp. 139, 520, 535.

² Dixon, "History of the Church of England," II, p. 482.

of these letters, then do out of hand take order for their division into such several hundreds, parts, and quarters of their shire as both for their own commodities and the speedier executing of the charge committed to them, shall be thought most meet, and being so divided, they shall severally call before them the parson or vicar if he resident, or else the curate and churchwardens, with three or four others of the discreetest and most substantial men of every parish within the circuit appointed to them, and making a true inventory of all manner of vestments, ornaments, plate, jewels and bells belonging to every church, or chapel, within their several precincts, they shall leave in every of the said parishes one inventory, so made, subscribed both with the hands of the commissioners for that part of the shire and also with the hands of the said parson, vicar or curate and the churchwardens and other honest men of every parish, and one other like inventory, subscribed both by the said commissioners and also the said parson, etc., to leave in the keeping of the *custos rotulorum* of the said shire. After the making of which inventories His Majesty's further pleasure is that the commissioners shall give in charge to the said parson, curates and parishioners of every such church that they presume not to alien, sell or otherwise put away or give their assents to any such alienation or putting away of any of the said vestments, plate, jewels, bells or other ornaments in any wise, but to see that the same be carefully kept and preserved, as they will answer for the contrary at their utmost perils. And in case either or any of them or any other of the parishioners, after knowledge of His Majesty's pleasure in this behalf, attempt any sale, gift or alienation of any of the premises, that in case the said parson, etc., do give notice thereof to each of the justices of the peace as dwell nigh the said parish, upon complaint or knowledge whereof by any other means, His Majesty's pleasure is the said justices shall take undelayed order for the stay of any such sale or alienation, to commit the chief offenders to prison for such time as shall be thought convenient. And for such plate, etc., as hath been

alienated contrary to His Majesty's said commandments at any time within one year before the date hereof, except the said alienation was made by the common consent of the parish, and the money thereof applied to any common good use by the like assent, His Majesty's pleasure is they shall cause the said goods or the value thereof to be restored, and such as shall refuse to abide the orders therein, to signify their names to the Crown, whereupon such orders shall be given as shall appertain. And for their better instruction herein they shall require of the bishops' officers a copy of the inventories heretofore made for every parish in that shire.

"Finally His Majesty's pleasure is, that after the making of the said inventories, there shall be made a short extract or abridgement only of the plate and bells of every parish, and the same gathered together for this same shire, to be sent up with a further declaration of their doing in this behalf."¹

Only twenty-three inventories obtained by the Hampshire commissioners are in the Record Office, which, considering the size of the county, are not many. We can only suppose that the lists of the churches not named have been lost.

The return for Havant gives details of plate which the parishioners had reserved for the King's use, and does not contain any list of ornaments or vestments. On reference to the inventory for 1552 (*Procds.*, H. F. C., Vol. VII, Part III, p. 94), it will be seen these had been sold for the repair of the church. Under Hale are included the Homilies and the Paraphrase of Erasmus. The former is now known as the First Book of the Homilies, twelve in number, composed by Cranmer; the Second Book was not issued till the reign of Elizabeth. The Paraphrase of the New Testament was written in Latin in the early part of the sixteenth century by Erasmus. It was translated into English mainly through the influence of Queen Katharine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII. Soon after the accession of Edward VI the Government decreed that these two books should be placed in the churches—an

¹ State Papers (Domestic), 1547-80, p. 14.

innovation which was strenuously opposed by Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, which may be the reason why they are not more often recorded in these inventories.¹

How anxious Cranmer was to see that the clergy had complied with this order is shown by the questions in his visitation articles of 1548 for the diocese of Canterbury:—"Have you got the Paraphrase in your churches?" "Read you the Homilies?" "Have you got the Paraphrase for yourselves?" The clergy were required not only to procure the Paraphrase for their churches, but also to provide themselves with it for their own use.²

In conclusion, I desire to thank Mr. William Page, F.S.A., Editor of the *Inventories of Church Goods for the Counties of York, Durham and Northumberland* (Surtees Soc., No. 97), for reading through this introduction and for making certain suggestions, of which I have gladly availed myself.

ALVERSTOKE.

An Inventorye taken of all the gooddes in the parishe church of Alverstok in the countye of Suth[ampton] by the oversight of Syr Edmund Wylson curat Lawrans Wethersibye Thomas Nonington church wardens Wylliam Smyth [Robert] Burges John Saret John Pope of the same parishe and countye [taken] in the thurd yere of the reighne of ower soveraine Lord King Edward the syxt.

Fyrst ij chalysses of sylver and gylte and a nother of sylver.

Item j broken chalette of sylver. Item j peac of sylver to drinke in. Item a serten of broken sylver whych duth appeare every thing by name in the church book Item fowre ringes of sylver. Item j greene gyrdell wyth studdes of sylver wyth the buckull and penant of the same. Item j cope of purpull velvatt. Item ij owld copes. Item j blew satten vestment wyth all the pertinances belonging to y^e same. Item j whyte vestment of crew wyth all hes pertinances. Item fyve owld vestementes fyve albes thre amysys and some of them lacking parrels vanneld and stoles. Item ij sylken tuniches for y^e deakon and sub-

¹ Dixon, *ut supra*, II, p. 448.

² *Ibid.*, p. 513.

deakon. Item ij hanginges of chamlat for y^e hye alter. Item j paule cloth of crew. Item j sylken banner cloth. Item j pyllow of redd sylk, with j owld pyllow. Item vij alter clothers. Item j hollon Shete . . . for y^e sepulcre. Item viij karchers. Item j piekes of latten. Item foure candelstyckes of latten. Item ij pryckattes of latten. Item j holyewater buckat of latten. Item thre surplesse for y^e preast. Item ij rochattes for y^e clarke. Item thre greate belles in the tower with j sauntysse bell. Item fyve lyttell belles. Item j whyte hanging of crew wyth j steinid cloth for y^e hyghe alter. Item ij hanginges of durnax for y^e low alter. Item j latten crosse. Item j latten bason with j ewre of y^e same. Item j latten sensar with y^e shyppe of y^e same. Item j canapye of sylke for the piexe. Item ij canopies of nedell worke for y^e p . . . Item thre lynnon stremars steinid. Item fyve lynnon banner clothers steinid. Item xx^{li} of owld ferne. Item j vant cloth of lynnon. Item foure coffers. Item xxjli of owld waxe. Item ij peyre of harnese. Item j crysematorye of ledd. Item fyve cruattes of tynne. Item j paxe of woodd painted. Item foure corperys cases with ij corperys. Item thre latten hoopes for y^e canop[y]. Item thre massebookes j greyle, wyth other owld bookes belonging to y^e church.

By me Syr EDMUND WYLSON curate WYLLIAM
SMYTH ROBERT B[URGES] JOHN POPE THOMAS
NONYTON LAWRAUNCES churchwardens.

Commissioners: WILLIAM WAYTE, T. UVEDALE,
JOHN WHITE.

BEAULIEU.

The Inventory of all jewells plate ornamentes and bells of the paryshe church of Beaulie made the xx daie of April yn the thirde yere of the reigne of Edwarde the vj by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Irlonde kynge defender of the faythe and yn earthe of the church of Englonde and Irlonde supreme head by Sir James [blank] curate and Rychard S. . . [blank] churchwardens, and Rychard Dyxon one of the paryshioners there as hereafter folowethe.

Firste one chalyce of sylver guylted ; one oyle boxe of sylver, one basyn and ewer of latyn, iiij candellstyckes of brasse, one payre of sencers laten.; one holye water pott and the bedemans bell brasse; bells yn the towre ij but small payres of vestymentes viij copes ij ;

In wytnesse whereof as well the parties above seyde as the Kynges magesties commysysoners to these presentes have enterchaungeably putt to theire seales the daye and yere above wryten

WYLLYAM BERKELY, JOHN . . . THOMAS PACE.

WEST BOARHUNT.

The Inventorie of all y^e goodes plate ornamentes and belles within y^e parishe church of Westburhannt in y^e countie of Suthampton taken the xxij daye of Apryll in y^e Thyrde yere of the reigne of our soveraigne Lorde Kynge Edward y^e syxte by Alexaunder Rodes and Nycholas Gonwyn churchwardens Sir Thomas Lomer curat and Raffe Hensley Roger Tyler and Rychard Lucas parissioners sertefied unto Thomas Uvedale William Wayte and John Whyte esquiers comissioners emonges other therunto apointed by vertue of y^e kynges majesties commission to them and others in that behalfe addressed as hereafter foloyth :—

one chales of Sylver. two belles in y^e steple. one cope of redde velvett. two payer of vestymentes with all ther apparell. iiij alter clothes of lynnne clothe. two other alter clothes to hange before y^e alter the one of brydges saten the other of black saye. one payer of candelstickes of brasse. one payer of sensors of brasse. iiij corpores cases with iiij clothes in them.

ALEXANDER ROODE, NICHOLAS GONWYN, churchwardens.

SIR THOMAS LOMER curate.

RAFFE HENSLowe, ROGER TYLER, RICHARD LUCAS, parissioners.

Commissioners: WILLIAM WAYTE, T. UVEDALE, JOHN WHITE.

BREAMORE.

The Inventory of all the plate juelles vestmentes and ornementes of the churche of Bremmer taken and made a cordyng unto the commaundne from Mr. William Kaylewaye and Mr. John Ogden esquyers and other commysysoners to our soffeneren lorde Edward the vj by the grase of God of Ingland France and Ireland kynge defender of the fayth and of the hole churche of Yngland and Ireland the supreme hed the iiij^d by serteine of the parrysse whose namys and sealys be put here to the xxij daye of Aprell in the yere above wreten.

Fyrste j chalys off xv owncys. v belles in the Towre the fyrst bell. ij fote brode at the bryme savyng j ynche the depth of hym is xx^{ti} ynches. the second bell is ij fote brode and di savyng a quarter of an ynch the depth ij fote and ij ynches. the therd bell is ij fote brode and viij ynches and di ynch, the depth ij fote and v ynche. the iiijth bell ij fote brode ix ynches and di, the depth ij fote and di. the vth bell iiij fote brode on ynche di the depth ij fote and ij ynches. iiij payre of old vestmentes. ij old copes. owre lady cote of satyn of brydgis. ij sylke banners. iiij canvas banners. ij curteyns of seye hangyng at the owter end. a curtayne of saten of brydges. a old pall and ij whyte curteyns. ij payntyd clothes and a payntyd clothe before the rode. vj owter clothes with a vant cloth of linnen and towel of dyaper. a wholly water pott of bras. iiij candelstyckes of bras with a sensers of brasse.

SOWTCHARFFORD. [CHARFORD, SOUTH.]

xxiiij Aprill 3 Edw. vi.

Fyrst on chales of sylver a crose of copper and gylt a broken pyx of latten a crysmatory of pewter ij cruettes ij canstykes of latten a pere of broken censers of latten ij corpores cases with the napkens iiij old auther clothes ij pere of vestmentes a cope of blac woosted a surples a byble and paraphrases a boke of iniunctyons comuyon and homelys a mese boke and vj other syngyng bokes ij coffers two belles the on beyng broken we sold for the reparacon of our chyrch almost ij yeres past.

DROKENSFORD. [DROXFORD.]

A inventory of Drokensford chyrche the wardens Phyllypp Benstede john Cleverlay Sir Thomas Blacwell curat Henry Harmesworth john Cluer john Knyght :

Imprimis j vestement off tawny worsted with an albe. on vestement off blew worsted with an albe. on vestement off sattyn off bregges ; on of velvet iij copes ; won of chalet ; won of velvet ; won of whyte sylke ; .ij chalys of sylver ; iij corpores with their caces ; iiij candelstyke of latten grett and smale ; iiij belles ; a holywater pott of latten.

THOMAS SHELLEY, NYCHOLAS DERYNG, GEORGE RITH.

ELINGHAM. [ELLINGHAM.]

This Invitore of chyrche goodes of Elingham maid xxiiij day of Aprill the iij yere of our soverayn lord Kyng Edward the vj, etc.

Furst v westimentes with ther albis iij coopis viij auter clothis and iiij to hyng before the awter. ij chalessis and a pxt of silver iiij corporassis iiij towelles iij surplessis for the prest and iiij for clarkes. for the sepulcur one schett ij steind clothis and ij clothis for the hersse ij streimers and iiij banner clothis. iij bells vj candelstykes a senser of brasse and a brasse pott. a crosse of copper and gylt.

Wittneses hereof CHRISTOFER HAREGYLL the curat WILLIAM GRAUNT THOMAS HOPYNKES MAURIS WARN JOHN COOLLES have set their seillis and subscribib ther namis.

FAWLEY.

The Inventory of all jewells plate ornamentes and bells of the parysche chyrche of Faweley made the xxviiijth day of Aprell yn the thirde yere of the reigne of Edward the vjth by the Grace of God, etc.

by Sir Roberte Bullock curate, Wylliam Clavell and John Evered chyrche wardens there. Edwarde Colle and Walter Edes paryschyoners there as hereafter folowethe.

Firste a chalyce of sylver ix unces. Suetes of vestymentes
ij viz. one of redd sylk the other of olde sylk. copes ij.
Bells yn the styple iij vaying xiiij^e. ij laten crosses.
ij candellstyckes of brasse. a payre of sencers and a pyx
of latyn.

In wytnesse whereof as well we the parties above
seyde as the kynges magesties commysyoners
to these presentes have enterchaungeably putt
to oure seales the daie and yere above wryten.

WYLLYAM BERKELY, JOHN MYLLE, THOMAS PACE.

FORDINGBRIDGE.

Inventory of all the plate juelles vestementes and orna-
mentes belonging to the church of Fordingbridge in the
cownte of Sowth[ampton] taken and made according unto
ye commaundement from Mr. William Kalewaye and Mr.
John Ogden esquiers and other commissioners to our soveren
lorde Edwarde the vj by the grace of God of England . . .
the iij^d by certain of the sayde parishe whose namys and sealis
be put herto ye xxij daye of Aprill the yere above written.

Inprimis iij chalices of silver wherof oon is parcell gylt.
j crosse of silver. ij pyxes of silver wherof oon is parcell
gylt. j censer of silver. oon ship of silver. j littill bell
of silver with a yern clipper that serve for y^e time of y^e
communion. j box of silver and gylt and oon [cup ?] of
silver. iij bellis y^e great bell is iij fote and viij ynches
brode and ij fote and ix ynches depe The middill bell is
iij fote and iij ynches brode and ij fote and vj ynches depe.
The littill bell is iij fote brode and ij fote and iij ynches
depe and servith for the clock. y^e best vestement is
crimsyn velvett. j sute of vestementes viz for y^e prest
deacon and subdeacon y^e grownde thereof is chaungeable
red braunched with grene. j grene vestement growndid
with black velvett. j other vestement callid ye checker
whygt and red. j other vestement of old red velvet.
j other vestement of grene sylk and blew threde. j veste-
ment of black damask with a whight satten crosse. j sute

of vestementes for y^e prest deacon and subdeacon with a cope to ye same of black worstede. j wight damask cope. j other cope of blew sylk. ij other copes oon of red capha y^e other of chaungeable red and grene. iiij corporas cases ij of cloth of gowld y^e iiij^{de} blew y^e iiij clothe of tinsill. viij altare clothes. j frunt for y^e hygh altar of yelow satten of bridges. j frunt for y^e altar in y^e northe yle of black and whygt satten of bridges. iiij other frutes ij paynted y^e other blew and grene buckram. j crosse of coper and gylt. a sepulcur clothe yelow and blew satten of brydges. iiij stremers of sylk. v banner clothes wherof j is red sylk y^e other iiij be staynid clothes. ij syrplices for y^e prestes and ij for y^e clarkes. j paule of red and blew sylk and j other olde. iiij shetes. ij basens and viij candilstyckes of latten.

HALE.

An Inventorye of the churche goodes of the parishe of Hale in the countye of Sowthe[hampton] and in the dioc[ese] of Wynchester taken the xxij day of Aprill in thurde yere of the range of our soverange lorde Edwarde the syxet by the grace of God of Englonde Fraunce and Irelande Kynge defender of the faythe and in the churche of Englonde and also of Ireland supreme hed by Robert Penrudoke gent John Hobbes husbandeman churche wardyns of the same churche and Henry Norrys Henry Bytchman Wylliam Overand Thomas Boles with others.

Fyrste one pyxe of lattyn with a grene sarsenat one lyttell challic. ij candylstykes of lattyn. ij olde alter clothers. ij towelles and ij olde pyllowes for the alter. ij corperaxes. iiij pere of olde vestementes and all thynges belongyng too them. ij old copes. one syrpelys and iiij olde shettes. ij olde clothers for the Founte. one pere of censors. ij olde crosses of lattyn. the Fronte clothe of the auter of dornex. one olde chest for the vestementes. a coffer for the Regyster boke and the parishe boke. a masse boke and ij portasses

and one processyone. a bybyll and a olde manell. ij small belles and one sacaryng bell. the homyles and the paraffracesse of Eresmus.

HARBRIDGE.

The Inventorye of all suche ornamenties goodis and platte bellys and suche other lyke monumentes belongyn unto the parryshe church of Harbridge maede the xijth daye of Aprell in the thyrd yere of ower soverayne Lord Edwarde the vjth by the grace of God of Ynglonde Fraunce and Ierlande kyng defender of the fayth and of the church of Ynglond and Ierlande the supreme hedd immediatly undere God and exhibityde unto the kynges maiesties deputyd justities or commissioners concerning the premissies by us Syr Robert Cornyshe curate William Stevens Jhon Panton church wardens of the same.

Inprimis twoo challices of sylver. thre payer of vestimenties. thre surpleses. twoo copies. thre bellys in the Tower or belfrie. thre curse auterclothys. two smale laten candelstykyes. two lytyll hande towellys. a pael clothe for them that departe. thre corporases and as manye casies.

HAVANT.

Reseyved by me Thomas Fletwod the xxij day of December anno Edwardi sext tercio of Hughe Goodace John Kempe and Roger Shaw parisschoners of Havaunt in the county of Suthampton to the kynges magesties use as parcell of the church plate of Havaun aforsaid these parcelles of plate hereafter mencyoned viz.

Fyrst on chales with a patent gilt xx ounces. oon chalice, two cruetes, on pyxe, on shyp, two sensers, one relyke boxe, on standyng pyxe, viij rynges lxx bedes, a Saynt Jamys staf, and one small pece of plate being parcell gilt and whit and ontouched together.

Sum clxiiij ounces

Rec. by me THO. FLETWODD.

HORDLE.

The Inventory of all jewells plate ornamentes and bells of the church of Hordill made the xijth day of Aprell yn the thirde yere of the reigne of Edwarde the vjth . . . by Edwarde Kyxley vicar John Knolles and Richard Grene churchwardens and Edward Arnwood and Thomas Aldaye paryschyoners ther as hereafter folowith.

First ij challes of sylver ; ij copis of satten ; iiij peir of vestementes ; iiij surplices ; oon crosse of coper and ij other crossis of brass ; x aulter clothes and iiij towelles ; ij servyng towelles ; a curteyn to be drawen before the awter ; ij candelstickes of brasse for the awter and iiij belles.

In wytnesse wherof as well the parties above sayde as the kynges majesties commysyoners to these presentes enterchaungeably have putte their seales the day and yere above wrytten.

WYLLIAM JOHN MYLLE, THOMAS PACE,
BERKELEY EDWARDE KYXLEY, vicar.

(To be continued.)