SOMBORNE AND STOCKBRIDGE.

From the *Hampshire Chronicle.*

SOMBORNE.

Proceeding by way of Romsey road the party, on reaching the brow of the hill, diverged into the Roman Road from Winchester to Old Sarum, driving some three miles along the road, past Crab Wood and Sheddon Oak Copse, to Westwood, the party alighted at what was practically the foot of Farley Mount—concerning which regret was expressed that a prehistoric mound should have been desecrated by an obelisk or monument to a horse. Mr. T. W. Shore remarked that the Roman Road along which they had been driving took a perfectly straight line from the high ground above Winchester —the Romans from the high ground at Teg Down, by means of fires or otherwise, set their points towards Sarum. If they examined the road which passed under the wood to the north of where they were they would find a curious illustration of the road material used by the Romans ; in addition to the layer of flint they brought an inmense quantity of tertiary pebbles from the vicinity of Hursley and Hiltingbury. The chief reason why he had brought them to that spot was to show them one of the most remarkable of the boundary barrows in Hampshire. Leading the way for some few yards through the tangled undergrowth of the wood, Mr. Shore pointed out the barrow, which he stated had been known for many centuries as Robin Hood's barrow. Mr. Shore said there was not any map, so far as he was aware, which gave the barrow. How he knew of it was in this way :—Some years ago, before the Heathcote family left Hursley, he was invited by Lady Heathcote to see the old maps of the manor and several old relics of the estate, and on the old manorial map this was written, "Robin Hude's Barrow." But this was not the oldest name ; it was known locally as "Skilling's Barrow," which had the true Anglo-Saxon ring, but Robin Hude's

barrow was the name by which it was known in the sixteenth century—he did not suppose Robin Hood had any connection with these parts. It was the old boundary barrow of Hursley and Sparsholt; they would find these barrows were used in Anglo-Saxon times, and were described as places of heathen burial. Leaving the barrow the party passed down to the Roman Road indicated by Mr. Shore as passing the woodside, where several of the tertiary pebbles were to be seen, and, in reply to an inquiry, Mr. Shore stated that the late Sir William Heathcote had an excavation of the road made. Turning at the corner of the wood Mr. Shore said they were next going to assert their undoubted right to pass down one of the high roads of the country; apparently they would be passing over fields where permission should have been asked, but it was the old Hampton way, one of the British tracks from Southampton to Andover; it was a high road, the telegraph poles could be erected along it. Having ridden a little distance along the Hampton Way the brakes were halted at a path entering the wood. Up this the party walked by permission for some 150 yards to view the site of a Roman building. Two excavations were made on the Monday preceding the visit. Mr. Shore said they were in what was called West Wood, the western continuation of Crab Wood. In the wood, covering a large area, there were mounds of flints; the place had been a quarry for flints for centuries—certainly thousands of tons of flints had been taken away within the last 25 years, and thousands of tons before. The flints were arranged in made earth and generally rested on a concrete floor. The site, therefore, was a puzzle. What was it? It was certainly more than was explained by the occurrence of an ordinary villa—possibly they might find after extensive excavation some pavement, but he could not say for certain. What they did know was that these foundation walls occurred in various parts of the wood extensively, so that if any excavation was to be pressed at all to determine the matter it would have to be a large excavation. It was therefore interesting that in the wood not far from the Roman Road they had this Roman site. Mr. Shore pointed out remnants of faced chalk, a flanged tile, which Mr. Dale (hon. general secretary) said was for a drain, which meant that there had been a dwelling-house. Mr. Shore agreed—it showed

they had something on an extensive scale, a Roman station; the wall almost looked as if it had been a fortification—when they saw that only the foundations were left a vast mass of flints must have been removed. Mr. Shore called attention to traces of the foundations in various places, and also showed where a second trench had been excavated on the previous Monday. Part of a roofing tile of Purbeck or Swanage stone, artificially trimmed, was picked up. Mr. Shore said the site was not shown on the Ordnance Map; in reply to one of the officers of the Ordnance Survey he added that it was found by soundings and the traces of foundations. The neighbouring church of Sparsholt was said by tradition to have been built of flints brought from there, and certainly, when an enlargement took place, the flints were obtained from there. Roman coins —a silver and a bronze one—had been found in that wood: one he believed was in the Winchester Museum. Brakes were resumed, and the party drove further along the old grass way to No Man's Land, between Sparsholt and Upper Somborne. Here there was half-an-hour's halt under the welcome shade of bushes and trees for luncheon. Before continuing the journey Mr. Shore said a few words with reference to No Man's Lands in Hampshire. There were, he remarked, certainly five or six places called by this name in Hampshire. In that particular instance the Sparsholt people in olden times made the road as far as the eastern end and the Somborne people to the western end, but no one made any road across No man's Land—at present the land was appropriated by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, so that the name was scarcely correct. No doubt it was part of the ancient Forest of Bere, which once extended for many miles around there. There was another No Man's Land at Bramshaw, on the borders of Wiltshire, which he thought was practically between two counties, and neither claimed it; another No Man's Land, of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres, was between Botley and Burlesdon, another between Morestead and Owslebury, and another on Magdalen Down, Winchester, on what was the site of Magdalen Hospital. In olden times many places were extra-parochial, in no parish at all; forest lands and monastery lands were commonly extra-parochial, and later on places became known as No Man's Land. These places therefore arose, some through being

forest or monastic land, and others little odds and ends of lands which no parish would have because of liabilities involved. All these places were correctly marked on the Ordnance Map, and although many could no longer be rightly described as No Man's Land, they were still interesting as having a history curious in themselves. Little Somborne was next driven to, and here Mr. S. West, the Churchwarden, had the small and unpretentious church open for inspection, but Mr. Shore explained it was the wish of the Vicar no discussion should take place inside the church, and there was really more to be seen outside. On the exterior of the building, northwards, Mr. Shore pointed out characteristic features of Saxon work, and it was remarked that exactly the same arrangement was noticeable at Corhampton Church. Mr. Shore also said that ten years ago there was a little additional indication of Saxon work—there was a doorway with a pointed arrangement, the same as at the Saxon Church at Deerhurst, in Gloucestershire. At the north-east angle of the building layers of thin brick-work had been inserted, and Mr. Shore said it was a query what these meant. Two or three of the party replied "Roman," and Mr. Shore added that he, too, on a former occasion had queried them in a note-book as "Roman." Mr. Dale, however, did not think they were Roman bricks, and subsequently Mr. Lucas—the only architect present—expressed the opinion that they were modern tiles put in to replace the stone quoins. The foundations of a former chancel could be traced. While at this corner Mr. Shore read a few notes on Little Somborne. He said :—

The Domesday record (1086) was as follows :—"Bernard Pancevolt (a name which cropped up again 200 years later) holds Somborne, and Godwin held it of King Edward. It was then assessed at two hides, and now at one yardland. Here are two ploughlands in demesne, with one villein and seven servants. Its value was, in the time of King Edward, 60s., and afterwards, as now, 70s." The followlng entry probably relates to Up Somborne, through which they had just passed : "Waleran the huntsman holds Somborne (they had passed through part of the ancient forest of Bere, and he was probably one employed in the custody of that forest, a huntsman being in those days a big man—quite as big as the country squire),

and Roger holds it under him, and Elnod held it of King Edward. It was then as now assessed at 1½ hides. Here is one ploughland and two villeins with half a ploughland, also 18 acres of meadow. Its value was, in the time of King Edward and afterwards, 30s., and now 20s." Little Somborne has been connected with King's Somborne ecclesiastically through many centuries. At the time of Domesday Survey King's Somborne still belonged to the Crown, and is entered under the Terra Regis. It had belonged to King Alfred. It had in Norman times two churches, and these were without doubt the church as it then existed at King's Somborne, and the church of Little Somborne, which still retains remains of Saxon work. King's Somborne had at the time of the Survey a number of freemen, who enjoyed rights at that early period. A curious part of the Domesday record of King's Somborne is as follows :—"The steward claims for the use of this manor one yardland and a pasture they call a Dun, which pays 15s." With the exception of Dummer, as Mr. Thoyts points out, this is the only case in which a dun, or old Celtic fortification, in Hampshire is mentioned in Domesday, and refers to Somborne Common Down and Woolbury Camp. Domesday Book says that "Earl Moreton holds it, but the Jury of the Hundred assert that it is part of the royal demesne." This dun, or down, and pasture is, I believe, the same down which at the present time is being claimed by both the lord of the manor of Stockbridge and the lord of the manor of Somborne—an old dispute indeed, and one which will necessitate much research in London, and be fruitful of immense profit to the lawyers. In the 12th century it is stated Arnulp de Mandeville held Little Somborne at half a knight's fee by old feoffment. He held it of Samuel Pancevolt, and Samuel of the Earl of Hereford, and the Earl of the King in chief. The Earl of Hereford here mentioned was either Milo, of Gloucester, who was Earl of Hereford, and connected with this county through his possessions at Barton Stacey, or his son. The possessions of Milo, Earl of Hereford, however, descended to the Bohuns, afterwards created Earls of Hereford, by the marriage of Margery, daughter of Milo, and who became his heiress, to Humphrey de Bohun. His son Humphrey was called Earl of Hereford, and his grandson was created Earl by charter dated

at Porchester, 28th April, 1199. This Earl was one of the twenty-five barons appointed to enforce the provisions of Magna Charta. In 1316, when the Nomina Villarum was compiled, and the lords of manors throughout the kingdom were certified by Parliamentary writs, the manor of Little Somborne was held by Margeria de Hoyville, and the manor of Up Somborne by Robert Talemache. Henry, Earl of Lancaster, was at that time the Lord of King's Somborne Hundred, and the Hundred Court was held at King's Somborne. In the taxation of 1334 Little Somborne was assessed to pay 44s.4d., and Up Somborne 32s.10d., and these amounts remained the bases of the taxation of these places for several centuries. The Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, apparently continued to hold Little Somborne as superior lords of the manor, although about the 35th year of Edward III. it was held by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, who was lord of King's Somborne at that time. This was, however, apparently a temporary arrangement between the Earl of Hereford and the Duke, for, on the death of Humphrey de Bohun, in the 46, Edward III., about 1373, it was certified by the Inquisition *post mortem* then held that Humphrey de Bohun held Somborne by feudal tenure. His daughter Mary married Henry Plantagenet, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who afterwards became King Henry IV., and thus, on the death of John of Gaunt, King's Somborne and Little Somborne became held by one superior Lord, and that Lord aftewards became King. We have a glimpse afforded us of Hampshire sheep-farming at the end of the 14th century by the entry in the *Inquisitiones post mortem* relating to Little Somborne, on the death of John Bradewey and Christiana, his wife, in the 20 Richard II. They held a messuage and a carucate of land, with 16½ acres of meadow and pasture at Little Somborne for 700 sheep. These sheep were, however, pasture fed animals. The root cultivation now so extensively carried on in Hampshire did not begin until about the end of the 17th century, when the turnip was introduced into this county. Little Somborne is connected with the early history of one of our Hampshire hospitals, viz., the Hospital of St. John at Winchester. The founder of this hospital was John Devenish, a citizen of Winchester, in that wonderful 13th century. He said "wonderful," because many

of the things relating to Hampshire came down to them from the 13th century. He was a wealthy man, and held at the time of his death, for the master of the hospital at Winton, 100 shillings annual rent from Little Somborne. The entry in the records relating to this is curious, as pointing probably to an evasion of the Statute of Mortmain, by which it was made illegal to endow religious houses with any more land, but which was evaded for about a century by a trustee holding the land for the abbey or hospital or other religious house.

A further drive of about two miles brought the visitors to Stockbridge Common Down. Leave to visit Woolbury Mount had been obtained from Mr. Lancashire, but it was made a stipulation that no carriages should be driven across the down. The brakes, therefore, were left by the roadside, and the party walked up to the parapet of Woolbury. Mr. Shore said it was a Celtic fortification on one of the most commanding sites in the county. It was one of forty existing in Hampshire. The Club had never visited it before. He had pointed out in a paper that the size of a camp must have been commensurate with the population in the district—it certainly bore reference to the number of people it had to provide refuge for when the emergency arose. The parapet was partially destroyed on the side on which they were, and on the opposite (the northern) side it was wholly gone; the centre of the earthwork was being cultivated (turnips were growing). From the height Mr. Shore pointed out objects of interest to be discerned amongst the wide sweep of country over which they were looking; he named Farley Mount, Parnholt Wood—which belonged to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster—the Buckholt Hills and Forest with the continuation of the Roman road to Old Sarum, Danebury—perhaps the most tremendously fortified position in Hampshire, and which, all well, they should visit next season—Quarley Mount, Silbury Hill beyond, Ludgershall, Inkpen Beacon, Walbury Camp, the Woodhay country, Siddon Hill, Beacon Hill, and Highclere (Lord Carnarvon's), Kingsclere, and Barton Stacey Church in the nearer distance. Mr. Dale said that in a paper published in the first number of the Proceedings Mr. Shore had catalogued the forty camps in the county, and copies of the Proceedings could be obtained; Mr. Shore had rendered great service in doing this, and possibly

the time had arrived when he might give further consideration to the matter, because the ditches varied, and looking at these it was a question whether some might not go back to the Stone period. Mr. Shore thought that the deeper the ditch the weaker the right hand—he took it this did not show older camps, but denoted rather a want of physical power irrespective of the fortification. Mr. Dale said he had in mind the ditch around Avebury, which was known to be Neolithic. On re-crossing the down Mr. Shore called attention to rectangular lines which could be traced on the sloping ground, and expressed the opinion that these were old acre-plots of a common system of cultivation going back to Saxon times. These acre strips existed in various parts of Hampshire—they could be seen on Magdalen Down above Winchester, and here again on Somborne Common Down they were to be met with. A military gentleman had suggested the lines had something to do with the defence of the camp, but until he had better evidence he should believe they were the remains of common acre-plots.

STOCKBRIDGE.

Shortly before the appointed time, half-past three, the party reached Stockbridge—1½ miles from Woolbury. Here they were met by the Vicar (the Rev. R. J. Chandler), Mr. Hulbert, the last appointed bailiff, and the Rev. R. H. Clutterbuck, of Penton Mewsey. The remains of the chancel of the old church, now used as a mortuary chapel, were first visited. Much interest was taken in the headstone of a grave by the side of the churchyard path; the inscription upon it is as follows:—

In memory of JOHN BUCKETT,
Many years landlord of the King's Head Inn,
in this Borough,
Who departed this life Nov. 25th, 1802,
Aged 67 years.

"And is alas! poor Buckett gone?
Farewell convivial, honest John.
Oft at the well by fatal stroke
Buckets, like pitchers, must be broke.
In this same motley shifting scene
How various have thy fortunes been,
Now lifted high, now sinking low;
To-day thy brim would overflow,

Thy bounty then would all supply
To fill and drink and leave thee dry;
To-morrow sunk as in a well,
Content unseen with Truth to dwell;
But high or low or wet or dry
No rotten slave could malice spy.
Then rise, immortal Bucket, rise,
And claim thy station in the skies
'Twixt Amphora and Pisces shine,
Still guarding Stockbridge with thy sign."

Mr. Shore said he thought there was some connection between this John Buckett and the visits of the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV.), and that it was one of the friends of the Prince Regent who wrote the epitaph; it was evidently written by no local poet, the metre was good and the rhythm was good—Buckett was evidently appreciated by the grand visitors to the neighbourhood. In all his (Mr. Shore's) wanderings through Hampshire he had never come across a tombstone which struck him as more curious, and he hoped it would always be preserved.

At the Grosvenor Hotel, where tea was served, Mr. Shore said it might be convenient before leaving the room they should hear what there was to be said with reference to Stockbridge. He could not find any reference to the name Stockbridge earlier than the 12th century. There was a great manor near there of the King, "Somborne," and in Saxon times and the time of the Norman Survey it was customary to enter several in the same name. Somborne served for three or four—King Somborne, Little Somborne, Up-Somborne, and that place (Stockbridge). He identified one of these Sombornes as referring to Stockbridge. There was a long entry in the Domesday Book relating to King's Somborne, another as to Little Somborne, a third as to a manor he identified as Up-Somborne, and there was in addition this remarkable entry:—William de Ow holds Somborne of the King, and Tol——held it of King Edward. Then it was assessed at 14 hides, now at 7 hides and a half. There are 12 ploughlands, in demesne are 2 ploughlands and 19 villeins and 5 borderers with 8 ploughlands. Here are 13 slaves, a mill worth 10s." [laughter]—they should multiply that by 25, and it would be a fair rent at the time—"and 68 acres of

meadow, also 9 houses of burgesses, which pay 12s. 2d." If this did not refer to Stockbridge he should be glad to know to what it referred. In the time of King Edward and afterwards it was worth 14 pounds, and now the same, but it pays £16. Stockbridge was one of the early boroughs of Hampshire, a borough by prescriptive right. The lordship of the manor and borough of Stockbridge was commonly held with that of King's Somborne in the Middle Ages. It was held by Isabella, wife of Patrick de Cadurcis, in the time of Edward I. The Cadurcis (or Chaworth) family inherited it through Margaret de la Ferte, daughter of William Briwere, one of the barons of King Richard's time, who held it at that time, and who was sent by King Richard with other barons to negotiate a peace with the King of France in 1193. In the troubles of the next reign William Briwere, the lord of Somborne and Stockbridge, was one of the barons who supported the King as long as they could in the disputes which led up to the signing of the Great Charter. The Duchy of Lancaster—with which King Somborne manor, the manor of Longstoke, the manor of Hartley Maudit, the borough and manor of Stockbridge, and the Hundred of King's Somborne, in Hampshire, were connected as late as the time of Queen Elizabeth and subsequently—was created by Edward III., and his relative, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, was the first duke, his predecessors having been Earls of Lancaster. Lancaster was, however, only erected into a County Palatine in the 50th year of Edward III's reign in favour of his son John of Gaunt, who married Blanche, the daughter and heiress of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and so succeeded to the duchy in right of his wife. Within the County Palatine John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, had granted to him the "Jura regalia" and a king-like power in it for his life, but on the lands and manors, such as Somborne and Stockbridge, out of the County Palatine they possessed only the rights and privileges of the superior nobility. In the 14th century other manors in this county, such as Chalton and Catherington, lately visited by this Club, formed also part of the Duchy of Lancaster, having come into it through the Honour of Leicester. In the time of Queen Elizabeth the borough and manor of Stockbridge was certified as forming part of it. At that time the manor of King's Somborne

contained 16 freeholders and 26 copyholders, having 22½ yardlands and 3½ acres. This gave an average of nearly a yardland to each copyholder, *i.e.*, from about 25 to 30 acres. Stockbridge at that time was a relatively more important place on account of its borough rights. Some towns in Hampshire grew into importance in the Middle ages from being royal manors, such as Andover, others from being great ecclesiastical manors, such as Romsey. Stockbridge had no such advantage apart from its connexion with King's Somborne, but it grew to some extent from its mediæval commercial position, being on the high road from London to Old Sarum and Salisbury, and being also at the junctlon of the roads from London and Winchester, leading across the Test into Wiltshire. There was no doubt a stoke here in Saxon time, but the original bridge was probably of Norman date. A stoke in Hampshire, whatever antiquaries may say it was in other counties, was a staked ford, *i.e.*, as he understood it, a fording place where, from the soft nature of the marsh, some artificial staking was necessary to prevent the loose material thrown into the river to make the ford from being washed away. A little higher up the river there was a long stoke, as you may see in the road across the marsh, and hence the name of Longstock. The bridge at Stockbridge perhaps arose as early as the time of Queen Maud, wife of Henry I., who was known to have encouraged bridge-building. In the next reign, that of Stephen, Stockbridge is mentioned as being the place where Robert, Earl of Gloucester, who had escaped out of Winchester with the Empress Maud, was captured on his flight westward towards Bristol, he having stayed behind, according to one account, to facilitate the escape of the Empress by disputing the passage of the river with her pursuers. The name Stockbridge, Stogbridge, or Stokebridge, occurs in the records of subsequent centuries. In 1334 Stogbridge was taxed separately from King's Somborne, and had to pay 50s. as its contribution to its tax. The ecclesiastical history of Stockbridge was, until modern time, connected with the ecclesiastical history of King's Somborne, and the Church history of King's Somborne was connected with the Abbey of Mottisfont. This abbey or priory was of the Augustine order, and controlled some of the churches up the valley as far as Longstock. Margaret de la

Ferté, the heiress of William Brewere, gave to Mottisfont Priory the church of King's Somborne, with which Stockbridge, as a chapelry of the same, of course went. She gave also to the priory all the burgage tenements in Stockbridge free of all services and suit of court, which had belonged to Adam le Taillur. This was in the 13th century. Mottisfont Priory thus became an owner of houses in this borough. The priory also held the churches of Little Somborne, Longstock, Upper Eldon and others. The temporalities of the Prior of Mottisfont in Stockbridge in 1290 amounted to £5 6s. 8d. a year. Stockbridge is often described as a membrum manor of Somborne, and burgage lands and tenements in it were often held by landowners elsewhere. Thus in Henry VI.'s reign Sir Stephen Popham held divers lands and tenements here. In the 16th century, when "Good Queen Bess," or her advisers, or all of them were seeking how to enlarge the parliamentary privileges of the people, the Queen caused writs to be issued to a number of ancient boroughs to return members to the House of Commons. Stockbridge was one of the boroughs selected for this privilege, and received its first writ in 1562. It must have been a proud day for the burgesses of Stockbridge to be suddenly promoted from being of no political account at all to becoming electors of two members of Parliament. The burgesses retained this privilege for 270 years, *i.e.*, until 1832. There were but about 70 of them at the most, and they appear soon to have found out the value of political privileges. They appear, however, to have taken much time in making up their minds in weighing well both sides of an election, and considering well all the candidates, and whether they were free with their money.

Mr. Shore said it was curious to notice how the names of the members of Parliament were connected with local families, and went on to mention he was compiling a complete list of the members, which he would send to the proprietor of the Grosvenor Hotel, to be hung up in one of the rooms, as being of local interest. He had completed the list from 1562 to 1713, and it was as follows:—

Walter Sandes, Gent., and Wm. St. John, Gent.	...	1562-3
Henry Gyfforde, Esq., and Tristam Pistor, Esq.	...	1572
George (x name torn), and Hampden Pawlett, Esq.	...	1584

George Kingsmill, Esq., and John Fysher, Esq. ...	1586
Chydyocke Warder, Esq., and Henry Seint John, Gent.	1588-9
John Awdeley, Gent., and Henry St. John, Gent. ...	1592-3
Miles Sandys, Esq., and Mark Stieward, Esq. ...	1597
Edward Savage, Esq., and Thomas Grymes, Esq. ...	1601
Sir William Fortescue, Kt., and Sir Edwyn Sandys, Kt.	1603-4
Sir Richard Gifford, Kt., and Sir William Ayloff, Kt. and Bart.	1620-1
Sir Richard Gifford, Kt., and Sir Henry Hooldcrafte ...	1623-4
Sir Richard Gifford, Kt., and Sir Thomas Badger, Kt.	1625
Ditto	1625-6
Sir Richard Gifford, Kt., and Sir Henry Whithed, Kt.	1627-8
William Jephson, Esq., and Walter Hedeningham, Esq.	1640
Ditto (Long Parliament)	1640
Francis Rivett, Esq., of Kingsomborne, and Richard Whithed, jun., Esq., of Tuderley	1658-9
Francis Rivett, Esq., of Kingsomborne, and Sir John Evelyn, Kt., of West Dean	1660
Sir Robert Howard, Kt., and Robert Phillips, Esq. ...	1661
Henry Whitehed, Esq., and Oliver St. John, Esq. ...	1678-9
Ditto	1679
Essex Strode, Esq , and Oliver St. John, Esq. ...	1680-1
John Head, Esq., and Essex Strode, Esq. ...	1685 James II.
Oliver St. John, Esq., and Richard Whithed, Esq.	1689 Convention
William Montague, Esq., of Evesham, and Richard Whithed, Esq., of Titherley	1689-90
Thomas Jervoise, Esq., of Herriard, *vice* Montague, deceased	1691
George Pitt, Esq., *vice* Whithed, deceased... ...	1694
Anthony Sturt, Esq., and John Venables, Esq. ...	1695
George Pitt, Esq., Anthony Sturt, Esq., John Pitt, *vice* G. Pitt	1698
Anthony Sturt, Esq., of Heckfield, and John Pitt, Esq., of Crow's Hall	1700-1
Fredk. Tilney, Esq., and Anthony Burnaby ...	1700-1
Anthony Burnaby, Esq., and Henry Killigrew, Esq. ...	1702

THE PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir John Hawes and Sir Edward Lawrence ...	1707
Ditto	1708
James, Earl of Barramore, of Kingdom of Ireland, and George Dashwood, Esq.	1710
Richard Steele, Esq., and Thos. Broderick, Esq. ...	1713
James, Earl of Barramore, of the Kingdom of Ireland, *vice* Richard Steele, Esq., expelled the House	

Richard Steele was the great political writer contemporary with Addison, and both were constant contributors to the *Spectator*. For thirty years £60 to each of a certain number of the electors was known as "the old thing" [laughter], and a letter written in May, 1772, placed the value of the Borough from £1200 to £3000. He had extracts from letters held by Mr. W. H. Jacob, of Winchester, and these he would read :—

Winchester, May 5th, 1772.

This day is the election of a Member for Stockbridge, in the room of Warge, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. There are three candidates—Mr. Hare (Innes Hare, Esq., St. James-street, London—he got in), who, 'tis reported, gave £1200 for the vacancy and is supported by Mr. Fox and General Smith, and the other gentlemen brought down by Sir George Colebrook. It is publicly known that money is to prevail, being notoriously known as a corrupt burrough (*sic*). Smith got cash here yesterday for £3000 for this purpose.

Extract from Banbury Correspondence :—

September 12, 1774.

Lord Irnham and Mr. Luttrell, 'tis thought, will come in for Stockbridge, at the moderate price of £10,000, provided they are the last bidders.

[laughter]. Mr. Luttrell, he (Mr. Shore) believed, built Eaglehurst Castle, near Calshot, and it was long known as "Luttrell's Folly."

November 16, 1780.

Dear Sir,—I embrace the first opportunity of congratulating you on your victory in the Court of King's Bench in favour of your interest in the Borough of Stockbridge, and hope it may be the means of making it permanent to you and your family for many Parliaments. If the voters knew really their true interest they would never desert so worthy and consequential a friend. My family partake in the joy of your success, and which I have found of more efficacy in a fit of the gout which now confines me than any medicine the doctor can prescribe. As you have had and do keep the command in the Borough you will ever experience the superiority over your enemies by referring your wishes back to have everything regularly executed, in preference to the undigested zeal of a friend.

Yours etc., BANBURY.

The Hon. John Luttrell, M.P., London.

Stockbridge was just a little connected with English literature; he had referred to Steele, and he could mention three or four others. Readers of *Martin Chuzzlewit* would remember Dickens described Tom Pinch's ride to London ; surely that

was through Stockbridge, and the Bald Face Tap could be no other than the White Hart, higher up the street—no doubt the description was painted from Dickens' own experience of a similar night ride through Stockbridge. The borough mace was 30 inches in length; it bore the inscription *Sum adhuch gloria Stockbridge ex dono Essexe Strode Armig* 1681 ("I am the glory of Stockbridge; given by Essex Strode, Esq., 1681"), and the names of the officers, "Thomas Blatch, bailiff," "William Gibbs, constable." The arms were those of England, France, Scotland, and Ireland—six panels with (1) Arms of Stockbridge (three lions); (2) Crown and lilies of France; (3) Crowned harp; (4) Crowned thistle; (5) Rose and crown of Hampshire; (6) Donor's Arms, crescent in a canton with fleur de lys—3, 4, 3 on the field. Mr. Dale remarked that the three lions were the old form of Royal Arms, and therefore were connected with King Somborne. Lieut. Cochrane (Ryde) asked if there was still a Corporation? Mr. Shore took it that Stockbridge was one of the old unreformed Corporations, and if they chose to act he supposed there were officers to be elected—a bailiff and burgesses. The Rector invited the members to inspect the new church, and mentioned that the windows of the chancel and a great deal of the stone-work were removed from the old church to the new; there were some very curious old corbels in the vestry which were around the arches of the nave in the old church; there was a curious piece of carving under the credence table which possibly came originally from Mottisfont, which was connected with the Carmelites; there was also an old cross in the west window in which the position of the arms was somewhat different from what was customary, and there was an old chalice given by two of the members of Parliament, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Jervoise. On subsequently proceeding to the church Mr. Shore said the date of the chalice would have been about 1690. Some coloured work built into the east end of the south aisle Mr. Shore said was in all probability niches from a chantry chapel—no doubt saints originally stood on each niche at the back of the altar. The old font of Purbeck stone was also an object of interest.