

NORMAN castles were built in feudal days to overawe the country and to keep the people in subjection. Almost immediately after the Conquest the stern Norman *keeps* arose, placed very often on inaccessible places and surrounded by a moat of water. The remains of such an early castle of occupation surrounded by a water-moat may surely be traced at Stoke Courcy, where the first owner was William de Falaise, a relative of King William, and coming from his birthplace in Normandy. There was a strong Norman keep with its dry moat at Nether Stowey also, which formed the head of the old Nether Stowey Barony. Both Stoke Courcy and Nether Stowey were *boroughs*, but their importance was of a comparatively fleeting character. The barons in each place were men of note, but the warlike energies of the de Courcy family took them to Ulster; those of the de Candos or Columbers family at Nether Stowey to South Wales. It was a grander thing to be called *Lord of ancient Caerleon* and a Lord Marcher of Wales than Lord of Nether Stowey; and it was more imposing for John de Courcy to be Lord of Ulster than Lord of Stoke Courcy in Somerset.

The Castle of Bridgwater had a very different beginning from that of Stowey or Stoke Courcy castle. In the first place its construction, i.e. 1202, was later in time, and in the second place its first owner, William Briwere or Brewer, was not amongst the roll of Norman families. It is said by Gerard that the first William Briwere was a foundling or perhaps a mere military adventurer picked up from the *bruera* or heath by Henry II when hunting in the New Forest. Thirdly, it is plain that Bridgwater Castle was not in the first instance ever meant to be an original *caput Baroniae*. The manor of Brugie, as already pointed out, lay amongst the Domesday properties of Walter de Douai, and the head of this original barony was at Castle Cary.

Still, as far as we can see, Bridgwater Castle was constructed very much on the lines and according to the plan of the early Norman castles which, by the policy of the Conqueror (as Freeman and Palgrave remind us), sprang up all over the land. The proximity of a tidal river afforded the opportunities of having a very deep and exceptionally wide moat; the river itself with its tidal currents and slippery banks afforded a strong defence on the east. The very entrance was probably guarded, not only by a detached *'barbican'* or strong tower, but also

by two smaller towers on this side and on that, up which a staircase would lead to the parapets, whence the defenders would hurl down what missiles they had. Through slits and apertures in the walls men with cross-bows could take their deadly aim. The walls of the great keep itself would be strong and massive, measuring ten feet or fifteen feet thick. Whoever desired to assault the walls of a Norman castle would have, in many cases, to cross a moat of water. This could be done only by filling up the moat or a portion of it with huge quantities of fascines or brushwood. But this was only part of the task. To carry the parapets of the castle by assault a huge wooden structure was often made, built up storey after storey facing the castle walls, reminding us of Virgil's Trojan horse. When completed, it was moved forward on wheels with immense toil across the portion of the moat already filled up and affording an access. Relays of assaulters would then clamber up and, letting down a gangway on the top, come to a desperate hand-to-hand struggle with the defenders. This wooden structure might be fired and all the labour lost, but to avoid this catastrophe, it was often covered with raw hides. Below, the sappers and miners with pickaxe and battering-ram might get to work at the foundations of the castle walls, protected by a kind of wooden contrivance called a *chat* or *cat*, fulfilling the same purpose as a Roman *testudo*. A *chat chasteil* was the collective name for the engine of assault (*Norman Architecture*, by Viollet le Duc). Not unfrequently the sappers and miners might begin to work at some distance from the castle wall, and so try to surprise their foes from beneath their own foundations, and perhaps this may account for the many rumours of subterranean passages under old castle sites. Before the days of artillery Norman castles, however, must have been extremely difficult to carry by assault. In Bridgwater the worthy burghers might have looked to the castle as a defence, but what if the building was used against their own liberties? Within the walls was, we know, a gloomy prison, and the Lord of Bridgwater Manor had his gallows, his pillory, and ducking-stool.

When leave was given by King John to William Briwere to build (*firmare*) Bridgwater Castle he was allowed to erect one at the same time at Eslege or Stoke, in Hampshire, or on his lands in Devon, where he was Lord of Dunkeswell, on the Blackdown Hills not

far from Honiton, and also of Bahantune or Bampton. William Briwere was a heart and soul supporter of King John, and is said to have ranged himself on his side against the barons and to have opposed the granting of Magna Charta. However this may be, it is certain that he entertained King John in Bridgwater Castle shortly after its erection on several occasions, from 1204-10. Apparently there was no part of England more favoured by this monarch than the county of Somerset.

Bristol Castle, with its forest and chase of Kingswood adjoining, was visited by him, and there, in 1209, it is said that the King *interdicted the capture of all birds throughout England*, an early and strong presentation of the game laws. It has been suggested that this particular kind of Interdict of birds was really an answer to the terrible Interdict which had just been launched upon him by Pope Innocent, and that it was a warning to all monks, friars, and churchmen fond of hawking that for the future they would have to hold their hands.

The Castle of Bridgwater never knew more imposing days than those of King John. The Castle must frequently have been used as a kind of hunting-box, whence the heights of the neighbouring Quantock Hills, the moors, and fastnesses of North Petherton and North Curry would be traversed by the eager steps of huntsman and fowler. From the Pipe Rolls of the Bishop of Winchester (1207-8) we learn that certain payments were made for salting and drying venison from Bruges.\* At one time, so old Gerard informs us. King John had taken over in his own hands the royal park at Petherton from William Dacus, the forester, who in 1199 had the custody of it,\*\* giving him *a parcell of Ilchester* in exchange for it. However, this does not seem to have been a permanent arrangement, for in 1216 (Close Rolls) King John gave to his favourite, William Briwere, in addition to what he already possessed, the manor of Newton Forester (North Newton in North Petherton) and all appertaining to it, viz. the oversight of the Somerset Forest, also of Exmoor, Hawkrige, Exton, Withypoole. He also gave him the charge of the manor of Stoke Courcy and, presumably, the Castle also, together with Wootton Courtenay, a manor associated with Stoke Courcy in the early annals. The above were probably temporary arrangements only, made in troublous and turbulent times, for there seems to have been no permanence about them. At this date William

Briwere was at the zenith of his power. In 1222 the Castle itself was either enlarged or repaired in a very substantial way, as a grant of fifty oaks was made *ad castrum nostrum de Bruges reparandum*, unless indeed the repairs were made necessary by an assault of which we have no notice. William Briwere was enlarging his barns also, and had a grant of oaks from North Petherton for this purpose.

It is not too much to assume that about this time there was much military and naval activity at Bridgwater. There was the threatened invasion of Louis, King of France, spurred on by the Pope to invade England, and to meet these dangers there are several orders extant in the Close Rolls issued to William Wrotham, Archdeacon of Taunton, *for the preservation of our ships and galleys on the south coast and elsewhere*. The following entry concerns William Briwere : —

*The King to William, Archdeacon of Taunton, etc. : know ye that we have given to our beloved R. de Mariscis, Archdeacon of Northumberland, and W. Briwer [Brewer] two of the ships, with all their apparel, which our sailors captured. And, therefore, we command you to retain to our use the best of those ships, and give the second best to Richard de Mariscis and the third best to W. Briwer with all their apparel. 2 June, 14 John.*

There is extant also a letter dated 10 John, September 19th, at Bridgwater, written by the King, Willielmo de S. Liego, vicecomiti Pembrochiaie, i.e. William Marescall, Sheriff of Pembroke, bidding him to come to him at Bridgwater. The object of this errand is, not stated, but it may have been on some business connected with the Welsh rebellion, which at this time was setting South Wales on fire. This Earl of Pembroke was one of the most powerful and able servants of King John, and, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, met the rebellious barons at Brackly, near Oxford, in 1215, shortly before the signing of the Magna Charta.

After the death of King John the Earl of Pembroke became the protector of the young King, Henry III, who succeeded to the throne at the early age of ten years, as his uncle. At the beginning of his reign King Henry III, we are told, had *to remain about Gloucester, Worcester and Bristol, till his vigilant and politic ministry could find out ways to break the united forces of his enemies*. Indeed, it was at Gloucester that Henry was acclaimed King by the barons on his side, who uttered that notable cry, *Fiat Rex ! Fiat Rex !* and for want

of a regal diadem Henry was crowned with a plain circle or chaplet of gold (Kennet's *History*).

In 16 Henry III (1230) the male line of the Briweres came to an end, their inheritance being divided amongst the daughters, Græcia, Margaret, Isabel, Alice and Joan. The Castle of Bridgwater, together with the manor and borough, and the manors of Haygrove and Odcombe, fell to the lot of the eldest sister, Græcia, who was married to William de Braose, lord of the manors of Brecknock, Radnor and Abergavenny. Græcia Braose would naturally be living at the castles of her powerful husband, and so does not appear to have occupied the Castle of Bridgwater. About 1233 there are entries in the Rolls referring to an inventory of the *armatura*, or a military accoutrement; the *balistae* and catapults, and the *quarelli* or weapons of the castle belonging to the last William Briwere. They were being valued at a certain price.

About 1233-4 Alienora, the second of the daughters of King John, the wife of William Earl of Pembroke, the younger, became a resident at Bridgwater Castle. In 1233 there was an order issued to Peter de Russell to give Alienora Countess of Pembroke the grass and hay which he had of the manor of Bridgwater, and also as much firewood as she needed as long as she stayed at the Castle. This lady was known not only as the wife of William Earl of Pembroke, the younger, whom she survived, but as the wife of Simon de Montfort, whom she married in spite of a vow of perpetual chastity after widowhood (1238). In 1234 Richard de Wrotham, the chief forester of the forests of Somerset, was ordered to give her nine stags out of Mendip Forest. She is described as the *consanguinea regis* really his sister. At the same time Gilbert Marescall, Earl of Pembroke, is to have ten stags out of the park of Newton Forester, i.e. North Petherton. Gilbert was the third son of the great William, and apparently was a resident at Bridgwater Castle, together with his sister-in-law. About the same time also there was a mandate to Richard de Wrotham to give Richard *Earl of Cornwall and Pictavia* five bucks and twenty-five does from the park of Bridgwater, i.e. Petherton Park, for replenishing his own parks. This Richard Earl of Cornwall, crowned *King of the Romans*, was the younger son of King John. The earldom of Cornwall originally was associated with the earldom of

Mortaigne, and included much of what is now known as *the Duchy of Cornwall*. "The titular honours, whatever they were, which belonged to the *King of the Romans*, and of the *Holy Roman Empire*, dating from A. D. 800, when the King of the Franks was crowned Emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III, were conferred upon Richard at Aachen. Richard undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in company with the Earl of Salisbury, and is certainly one of the strangest and most romantic figures of the day.

In the reign of Henry III there was another change in the succession of Bridgwater Castle and property. William Braose, the son of William Braose who had married Græcia Briwere, was massacred by Llewellyn Prince of Wales. He left four daughters, the eldest of whom was Maud, the wife of Roger de Mortimer (1247), and so the Mortimer regime began at Bridgwater, lasting for 150 years, till the Mortimer property became merged in Crown property.

The Mortimers were of Norman origin, and Roger, called the *filius episcopi*, i.e. of Hugh Bishop of Coutances, first took the name of Mortimer from the castle and village of Morte-mer-en-Brai in the Pays de Caux. Ralph Mortimer was probably at Hastings, and the House of Mortimer was connected with the ducal Norman house. Maud de Braose was a great heiress in her own right, and brought as her share one-third of the great marcher-lordship of Brecon and the still greater inheritance of the earls Marshall, in addition to Bridgwater Castle and the Briwere inheritance. Roger Mortimer, the son of Maud and Roger (1256-1326), is said by historians to have ruled all Wales like a king from 1307-21. Perhaps the family were known best as the lords of Wigmore Castle.

During the Mortimer regime Bridgwater Castle was governed by a constable acting for the great Mortimer overlord. For instance, in 1323, a writ was sent to the Constable of Bridgwater Castle directing him to keep the prisoners in his castle in safe and sure custody that he might be able to answer for them at the King's command (*Close Rolls*).

In 1359 the Somerset property of the Mortimers was still further enlarged by the sale and transfer of the forestership of Somerset from Roger de Beauchamp to Roger de Mortimer, and the extract from the Feet of Fines runs thus : —

*At Westminster in the Octave of St. John the Baptist between Roger de Mortimer, Earl of*

*March, querent, and Roger de Beauchamp and Sibilla his wife, deforciantis : For a messuage, a carucate of land and ten marcs rent in Newton-Plecy and Parkhous, and for the Bailiwick of the Forests of Mendip, Nerechich and Pederton, and the custody of the Warren of Somerton, and for the third part of the Advowson of Hawkridge, and for the Free-chapel of Newton-Plecy, and for the Bailiwick of the Forest of Exmore in the County of Devon... Roger and Sibilla acknowledged the right of the Earl and quit-claimed to him for them. The Earl gave them 200 marcs of silver."*

The fortunes of Bridgwater Castle and of Petherton Forest and Park adjoining had been knit together closely ever since the days of King John, and this purchase ratified and strengthened the connection.

The Forestership-in-Fee of Somerset has, of course, a distinct history, and was not necessarily an appendage to the Castle of Bridgwater, although it may be remembered how, in 1216, King John had given William Briwere this important office for a time. When the Mortimer family purchased it they appointed almost in every case substitutionary foresters and did not carry out the duties of the office personally.

For many centuries Bridgwater was, in addition to its character as a borough, a forest town with the very ancient and royal park of North Petherton just outside its south gate. The influence, therefore, of the forest laws must have been strongly felt, and the contrast between municipal freedom and trading privileges on the one hand, and the irksome regulations of the King's Itinerant Forest Justices on the other must have been acutely felt. Immediately a burgess got outside the limits of his borough, who could tell whether an officious forester would not exact *chiminagium* or toll from him? or, if a packman was fulfilling an engagement at Bridgwater fair or market, a burly verderer might stop him on small pretext for cutting a holly-stick or making waste, as it was called? The man who had a mastiff or watch-dog to guard his house and had forgotten to have it *expeditated* or clawed, might be summoned before the King's Forest Justices at Ilchester at great trouble and expense. Poaching was not to be thought of, unless a man wished to face the dread alternative of being proclaimed an outlaw and sent out of the country, *minus* all his goods and chattels. Fuel was scarce in those days, before the days of Welsh coals, and it was very difficult to get a sufficient quantity of this, unless a man was on good

terms with the forest officials. The proximity of the forest as a refuge for outcasts, whether feeble-witted or criminal, must have interfered with law and order, just as Kingswood Forest on the outskirts of Bristol was constantly a menace to the law-abiding citizens there. Placed thus, a forest with its practical exposition of forest laws for centuries must have exercised some kind of moral effect upon Bridgwater. Sometimes the citizens, feeling their way tentatively towards civic freedom and encouraged by wider trade privileges, would feel rebellious against a system of administration that made personal liberty a mere mockery. There were no forest laws in Devon except on Dartmoor, and the Devon sailors were out of their influence. The Parret sailors were exposed to them at every turn if they got outside the ports at Bridgwater or Axwater. Perhaps, when the Revolution did come, the memory of some or of all the inequalities of justice made the folk of Bridgwater and of Somerset more dour, more stern, and more determined than others. Certainly Cromwell had no more thorough and whole-hearted fighters than the men, for instance, of Popham's Regiment; no more intrepid leaders than Robert Blake, the very incarnation of the Bridgwater maritime spirit; no more eloquent advocate of right than Pym of Cannington.

Another dynastic change came in 1424, when the Mortimer property came into the hands of Richard Earl of Cambridge, and the grandfather of Edward IV, who married Anne Mortimer, the last heiress of the great House of Mortimer. This was the third time since the Briwere regime that Bridgwater Castle was passed on through the female line. Presently the whole property became merged with the Crown possessions.

According to an *Inquisition p.m.* in 1425, the Somerset property of Edmund Mortimer consisted of the forestership of Nerachich (Neroche), Exemore, Mendip, and Pederton, Bridgwater Castle, one-third of the borough, Heygrove, Odcombe, Milverton, etc.

A few typical extracts will show how the Castle of Bridgwater was held. It became a Yorkist appointment, and as far as our evidence carries us the place was not subjected to a siege like Stoke Courcy Castle, which was destroyed by Lord Bonville in the Wars of the Roses. Together with other places Bridgwater Castle became part of the dower or jointure of the King's mother, Cicely Duchess of York, who, as far as we know, did

not live here, but received the profits that arose from the Castle and manor. Indeed, for many years the Castle continued to be the especial property of the English queens.

In 1461 Stephen Preston, by letters patent of Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV, was appointed keeper of Bridgwater Castle, receiving the accustomed fees and issues of that lordship, and also lieutenant and keeper of the forest and park of Pether-ton, "with the accustomed fees and full powers as the Rangers and Foresters have always had." Stephen Preston did not hold the office long, for in 1465 there was a grant for life to Humphrey Stafford, Knight, Lord Stafford of Southwyke, of the office of Constable and Keeper of the Castle of Bridgwater on the death of the King's mother. Cicely Duchess of York, and also of the keepership of the King's park or forest of Pederton by Briggewater, with such fees and profits as the King's father, Richard, late Duke of York, had, with full powers to appoint and remove a lieutenant ranger and all foresters on foot.

Lord Stafford did not enjoy his Yorkist honours long, for having forsaken William Herbert, the Earl of Pembroke, at Danesmore in 1469 with his archers, he was accused of lukewarmness or treachery. Letters were issued against him by King Edward IV, and instructions given for his arrest to the sheriffs of Devon and Somerset. For as a successor to the properties of the unfortunate Courtenays, fighting for the Lancastrians, he was a great Devon landowner. He was found, however, secreted in a place near Brent, not far from the River Axe, taken to Bridgwater, and executed August 17th, 1469. His body was buried, according to his will, beneath the central tower of the Abbey Church of Glastonbury.

Giles Lord Daubeny, of the great De Albiaco family of South Pether-ton, had a grant of the forest, park or hay of Pether-ton by Briggewater with all fees, together with the Castle constableness and the forestership of Somerset, if we may so infer from a document in 1495, when *our lady Queen is said to have as dower the Forests of Racche (Neroche) and Myndeppe, the Manor of Odcombe, Manor and Burgh of Milverton, Castell of Brugewater and Manor of Heygrove — saving the rights of Lord Daubeny*. These rights would be surely those of Constable of Bridgwater Castle and Forester of Somerset.

Giles Lord Daubeny was best known in Somerset for the part he took in suppressing the Perkin Warbeck rebellion, with which there was so much sympathy shown amongst the West Somerset gentry. \*\*\* He was well known at the Court of Henry VII, being one of the heroes of Bosworth, Lord Chamberlain, Baron of the Realm, and Governor of Calais. Locally he was connected with the Luttrell, Trevelyan, and Audley families, and owned large estates in Somerset, amongst these the famous Barrington Court, part of South Pether-ton manor.

King Henry VII made a progress through Wells, Glastonbury, Bridgwater and Taunton in October, 1497, and probably paid a visit to Bridgwater Castle.

In 3 Henry VIII there is an enfeoffment *inter alia* to the King of the Castle and borough of Bridgwater, the manors of Heygrove, Odcombe, Milverton, Newton-Plecy, Eston (Exton?), Nerechich, Mendip, North Pether-ton and Exmoor. When Leland came to Bridgwater he described the Castle thus (1540-2): —

\*\*\*\* *The Castelle sumtyme a right fair and strong piece of work, but now al going to mere ruin standeth harde byneth the bridge of the west side of the haven.*"

The glories, therefore, of the old Castle of Bridgwater were, from one cause and another, beginning to pale in the days of Queen Elizabeth. According to an extract from a Special Commission, 1565, it is reported : —

*Item, ther ys nere adjoynnyng unto the key [quay] off the said porte off Brydgewater an olde decayed Castell off the quenes majesties. Within the walles thereof ther is a Greene conteynyng an acre of ground or thereabout, the profyt whereof is taken by the Constable of the seyd Castell whiche ys a fitt place ffor the buildyng off a Custome house and will be builded for XLli so that ther may be convenyent Stone off the seyd decayed Castell and timber out off quene majesties Wood called quenes Wood belongyng thereunto."* The Queen's Wood is probably the one near Durleigh House.

King Charles the First, by Letters Patent dated July 11th, 1627, granted to Sir William Whitmore, Knt., and George Whitmore, Esq., and their heirs and assigns, the manor and Castle of Bridgwater, with its appurtenances, the manor of Heygrove, and divers messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Bridgwater, Heygrove, Durleigh,

Chilton and North Petherton, together with all toll, courts-leet, view of frank-pledge, law-days, and assize of bread, wine and beer and all other victuals, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, felons of themselves attainted, convicted and condemned and put in exigent [exacted and outlawed], fines, amerciements, waifs, estrays, deodands, free warren, etc., in as large and ample a manner as heretofore used and accustomed within the same castle, manor, etc., and in as large and ample a manner and form as Jane [Seymour] Queen of England, Katherine Countess of Devon, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, or Richard Duke of York, ever heretofore had by reason or means of any charter or grant whatever. And among other things the said King grants all that rent of four iron horse-shoes, and thirty-eight iron nails, a free rent of John Buckland for his house called *The Swan*, with the appurtenances in Bridgwater ... to hold of the King, as of the manor of East Greenwich in the county of Kent in free and common socage, and not in capite, or by knight's service.

In this deed, which smacks of the old time and customs, one wonders how much reality there was about the feudal rights and perquisites so solemnly mentioned in the Charter. Did the Whitmores dare act upon the privileges of their deeds, or, after all, was it only the sonorous echo of the old days that floated down?

The above did not exhaust the whole of the Stuart property in Bridgwater, for in a Parliamentary Survey, September, 1653, of royal property, Charles Stuart, late King of England, is said to have been the owner of a *capital messuage or mansion house*, commonly called the capital messuage, in Bridgwater on the south-east part of the said town, together with mills, barn and gardens, bounded by the mill stream and St. Mary's Street. The mills were described as a water grist mill and malt mill, both under one roof and near unto the capital messuage.

After the purchase by the Whitmores, the old Castle appears to have been destroyed in great measure, if the following extract from the Calendar of State Papers, dated 1634, can be trusted: *Tobias Atkins confesses that at the time when Mr. Helliard had Somersetshire, by his leave the petitioner made some saltpetre out of the walls of the old Castle, lately pulled down by the owner at Bridgwater.*

It was getting near the time, however, of the great siege in the Parliamentary War, and

the Castle must have been fortified and placed in a state of defence before Fairfax and Cromwell came to batter it down. At this length of time it is hard to say how much of the old work ever survived the inroads of centuries, especially as the order was given by the Parliament to *slight* or dismantle the fortifications.

Coming to more modern times researches have shown that most of the site has been built over by the houses of Castle Street, King's Square, a part of Fore Street, Queen Street, and a portion of York Buildings, and that the garden in King's Square is the only portion not yet covered. As late as 1810 Mr. Jarman says that some of the walls of the Castle were standing, and for years afterwards several pits, guessed to be the remains of the keep or vaults, could be seen.

*A few years since a portion of the roadway on the higher side of King's Square suddenly gave way and disclosed what was thought to be part of the foundations. An old spoon was the only relic which came to light. The stones taken from the ruins served to build portions of the walls of new premises, and in more than one instance the ruins themselves were built into new structures. The wide moat was filled in at intervals, as it interfered with traffic or building operations; the north portion went by the name of Baily Ditch, a name not yet forgotten. Some of the houses in Fore Street were built over the moat, and as late as 1884, when rebuilding operations were going on behind Messrs. Hook's Golden Key Grocery Warehouse, the workmen made the interesting discovery of a portion of the moat, filled with black mud and refuse.*

*The last wall which stood was on the spot now occupied by the large house on the north-east corner of the Square, and it had to be removed as being dangerous. Of the few well-authenticated traces which now remain of the structure may be mentioned a stone archway on the Western Quay, next Mr. Sully's office, which doubtless was a water-gate entrance. There is also an archway in the cellar of a house at the corner of Castle Street which has been regarded as part of a subterraneous passage leading across the river. This is, however, mere conjecture. For many years one portion of the Ballium was used as a timber-yard, whilst the old gate-house in earlier times was converted into a dwelling-house by a member of the Harvey family.*

*Sic transit gloria mundi!* and the old Castle, which seven hundred years ago resounded doubtless with the sounds of minstrels, and was the rendezvous of many a royal hunting

party with its picturesque groups of foresters, verderers, bedels, lymers, and falconers awaiting the behest of a noble *Master of Game*, has perished so completely that we can only guess its shape and size from its scattered fragments. Tradition, however, dies hard, and on this classic spot even within recent memory the youth of the town of Bridgwater, hearing the tales of the past, have resorted to the deserted outer Baily to play games of mimic warfare. Perhaps the memory that lived longest was that of the celebrated siege in the Civil War, when, after its fall, the hopes of the Loyalists which clung to this spot as an impregnable fort and rallying spot were dashed utterly to the ground.



\* See *Forests and Deer Parks of Somerset*, by Rev. W. Greswell.

\*\* *Rotuli de oblatis*.

\*\*\* Greswell's *Land of Quantock*. 55

\*\*\*\* *Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*. S6