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Notice of the Register and Churchwardens' Account Book Which Belonged to Knebworth,  
Herts, Preserved in Dr. Williams' Library

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NOTICE OF THE REGISTER AND CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT BOOK WHICH BELONGED TO KNEBWORTH, HERTS, PRESERVED IN DR. WILLIAMS' LIBRARY.

BY THE REV. CHARLES B. PEARSON, PREBENDARY OF SARUM,  
*Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.*

THE register here referred to is said to have been found among papers in an empty house, but where or when is not stated. As far as the entries of births, deaths, and marriages are concerned, it seems to have been copied partially into the books now preserved at Knebworth, but there are some odd variations here and there. The church register begins in 1602. That preserved in Dr. Williams' library is headed thus :—

“A book or register conteyninge all Christeninges, marriages, and buryalls within the parish of Knebworth, from the feaste of St. Mychaell Th'Archangell beinge the xxixth daye of September, in the yeare of oure Lorde God 1596, and in the yeare of the raigne of oure Soveren Ladie Queene Elizabeth the xxxvii, as followethe, et., et.”

It would be tedious and uninteresting to copy the entries, which chiefly concern “the rude forefathers” of a very small and secluded country village ; there are, however, one or two peculiarities which may be worth notice.

The most pains in the early entries is bestowed upon the *christenings*, which is the word always used till 1612, when “baptized” takes the place of “christened.” The name of the father is always mentioned, not always that of the mother, and the *sureties* are also named till 1599, not afterwards. *E. g.*,—

"Edwarde Willsher, the sonne of Thomas Willsher of Langleye, christende the vijth daye of May, 1597, whose sureties were Roberte Hodgekins of Knebworth the parson, Mrs. Elizabeth Corbett, also Mrs. Wallope and Jhon Kettle."

"Thomas Yonge, the sonne of Thomas Yonge the younger, christenede the seconde daye of July, 1598, whose suerties were Roberte Hodgekins parson, Richarde Bigge the elder, and the goodwyffe Camfelde, the wyfe of Jhon Camfelde of the Traij \* howsen."

A specimen of the baptism of a person of greater consideration runs thus :—

"Mrs. Ann Wallope,† the daughter of Mr. Henrie Wallope, Esq<sup>re</sup>, christenede xxij. daye of Julij, 1597, whose suerties were Mr. Jhon Harleston, Mrs. Ann Lytton, and Mrs. Ann Caree."

The first entry of a marriage is—

"Charles Androw and Ales Dardes, marryede the iiij<sup>th</sup> of November, 1596."

In 1597, "Edwarde Atkins, *shipmaistere*, and Marie Pratt were married," which is the only approach to a *designation* to be found.

1712. Henry Wheeler and Rebecca Todd were married "By *Banns*," then first mentioned ; and 1716, "by *Licens*" occurs.

"1609. Buryed Alice Hodgkins, Aprill 3. by us  
"Robert Hundlebie, Rector,"

is the first mention of the officiating minister.

1613. I find *designation* of persons buried,—

"Sarah Groome, daughter of Widowe Groome.

\* This is a farm in Knebworth, "Three Houses," still called by the villagers "Three Housen."

† Whether the lady thus designated was an adult or an infant does not appear. The name Lytton introduces the chief landowner in Knebworth, from whom, by bequest of his mother, Mrs. Bulwer Lytton, the heiress of the Lyttons, the late Lord Lytton inherited the estate.

Alice Beaumont, wife of George Beaumont ;”

and so till 1664, the last so entered being—

“Edith, wife of Sam : Bentham. Rect. Febr. 15.”

The Register ends 1717.

These trifling peculiarities, however, would not have been worth noticing, if the same book had not happened to contain some churchwardens’ accounts beginning in 1599, some of the items of which may be considered curious. The first is headed—

“The accounte of Richard Bigge & Jo. Stanfield, churchwardens for the parish of Knebworthe before Mr.\* Rowlande Lytton, Esq., Robert Hodgkins, cler ; Jo. Darde, Jo. Kimpton, Jo. Weason, Thom<sup>s</sup>. Younge, sen., Thom<sup>s</sup>. Wrighte, Parishioners.

“Takenne the xxi. of December, being St. Thom<sup>s</sup> Daye. An. Dom. 1599.”

It is to be observed that the custom of churchwardens’ accounts being rendered in Easter week was of later date. The Rector, also, does not appear to have been *ex officio* chairman.

All moneys received at the communion offertories, and at collections for the poor, were apparently handed over to the churchwardens.† The receipts were as follows :—

“ Impr<sup>s</sup>. received of Widow Pake for rente for the \*

Church house...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      iij<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>.

\* This is the same person who is afterwards called “Sir Rowland Lytton, Knight.” He was Lieutenant of Herts, and commanded the forces of the county, and led them to the camp at Tilbury, in 1588. He was knighted at Belvoir, in 1603, and died 1616.

† They also regarded the trees in the churchyard as parish property.

‡ This, I suppose, was what we should call the Poor-house, which formerly existed in every parish. This particular house cannot now be identified. There was one in existence under that name in the adjoining parish of Codicote, which was pulled down in my remembrance, and the site thrown into the road.

It. Received of Widow Ballard for rente of one of the Church Beasts *	...	...	...	...	...	iiijs.
It. Received of Edward Parker for rente of one of the Church Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	iiij.
It. Rec <sup>d</sup> . of Tho <sup>s</sup> . Standler for Do.	...	...	...	...	...	iiij.
It. Rec <sup>d</sup> . of Phillip Rotherome for do.	...	...	...	...	...	iiij.
						<hr/> Sum. xixs. viiid. <hr/>
It. more rec <sup>d</sup> . of the Churchwardens beforesayde for the benevolence offered att the Communions	...	...	...	...	...	xxs.
It. more rec <sup>d</sup> . of the Collect <sup>n</sup> . for the poore †	...	...	...	...	...	xliiij. iiijd.

The Churchwarden's accounte for the Poore aforesayde as followethe :

Impr <sup>s</sup> . payde for Bread and Wyne att fyve Communions	...	...	...	...	...	ixs.	jd.
It. payde for our dinners and the sydes men Thom <sup>s</sup> . Barwell & Edw <sup>d</sup> . Kinge, att two visytacions att Ball-docke	...	...	...	...	...	...	iijs.
It. payde for makinge of our bills att the sayde visytacions	...	...	...	...	...	...	iiijd.
It. payde to the Aparyt <sup>r</sup> for warninge us to the Visytacions aforesayde	...	...	...	...	...	...	viijd.
It. payde for 16 <sup>o</sup> ( <i>sic</i> ) yarde of matt for to kneele upon in the chancell	...	...	...	...	...	ijs.	viijd.
It. payde unto Tho <sup>s</sup> Standles wyfe in the tyme of her sicknes	...	...	...	...	...	viijs.	viijd.

\* These beasts, perhaps cows, or oxen for agricultural labour, seem to have been let out at a yearly rate of 4s. The same custom occurs in the Brightston, Isle of Wight, accounts, beginning 1566, where there were 10 cows let out at 7*d*. each, and 134 sheep at 2*d*. The Knebworth rent in 1599 is nearly seven times as much, so that the Brightston people were not unreasonable in trying in 1576 to raise their rents to 2*s*. 4*d*. a head respectively ; but this was in advance of public feeling, and the old price continued till 1592, when the higher scale was adopted ("Church Quarterly," vol. iii., 373).

† In earlier times these collections were made at Easter and Christmas ; not, however, as required by law till 1597.

It. payde unto Widow Harper and Goodwyfe Grene for wattchinge with her ix. dayes & ix. nights ...	iijs.	
It. payde for a locke for her the same tyme ...		xiiijd.
It. payde unto a bone setter for settinge of her boyes legge that was broken ...	ijs.	
It. payde to the Smyth for a buckell and a truell (trowel) and nayles for the bells ...		vjd.
It. payde for wasshing of the surplis...		iijd.
It. payde owte for the Jayle and a mayemedde solldyere (maimed soldier) ...	iijs.	iiijd.
It. distributede amongste the poore ...	xijs.	iiijd."

This last item disposes of the same sum "*remayninge in the Churchwardens hands*," after rendering their account; at this time power had been granted to Churchwardens to make a sort of rate for the relief of the poor, which was abolished by the famous Act of Eliz. 43, 1601, when Overseers were created.

Then follow gifts of money, varying from 1s. to 6*d.*, to thirteen poor persons, amounting to 9*s.* 4*d.*, the total expenses being 40*s.*

The parish seems to have been flourishing in its funds at this time, as appears by the conclusion of the account :—

"Memor <sup>d</sup> restethe in the Churche Boxe ...	iiijl. ix <i>d.</i>
It. remaynethe in the Handes of ffranceis Bigge, for the w <sup>ch</sup> he standethe bownde to the Churche wardens to the use of the Churche Boxe ...	viiijl.
It. more in the hands of Henrye Pratt, for the w <sup>ch</sup> Mr. Rowland Lytton, Esq <sup>r</sup> , is suertie ...	xx <i>s.</i>
It. remayninge in the Handes of Jhon Mason, the w <sup>ch</sup> he receavede of the goodm. Merrilde in full satis- faction of the dett he owede to the Church boxe, and for the w <sup>ch</sup> he was his suertie, etc. ...	xx <i>s.</i>
It. remayninge in the handes of Myhell ffeeldes wyfe, the w <sup>ch</sup> was Myhell ffeeldes his dett ...	l <i>s.</i>

1600. Dec. 21, being S<sup>t</sup> Thomas daye"—

The same churchwardens and parishioners named and the

receipts for "rente for Church Howse," and of four persons for "rente of one the Church Beaste at iijs. each.

The Benevolence of the Comunion the aforesaide

yeare ... ..	vjs.
It. rec <sup>d</sup> more of the collections for the poore	... xliijs. iiijd.
	Sm. ls. iiijd."

The account of expenses much the same :—

" It. payde owte for a Shovell ... ..	xd.
It. given to Widdowe Cowdell in her sickness	... viijs. iiijd.
It. payde owte for Tyles and ij busshells of Lyme for ower Church	... vijs. xjd.
It. payde to the Tyler for tylinge of the Church	... xxd.
It. Laiede owte for Bread and Wyne for iij * Communions	viijd.
It. distributede to the poore at Christyde, 9 persons at xijd. each."	

(Notice of sums remaining in Church box and hands of three persons, as before.)

1600. Missing.

" 1602. The accounte of John Mason and Edward Darde, Churchwardens, with the overseers † for the Parishe of Knebworthe, before Mr. Rowland Lytton, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Rob<sup>t</sup> Hodgkins, Clerk, Richard Bigge, John Darde, Thomas ffeild, John Canfield, John Kimpton, Tho<sup>s</sup>. Wrighte, John Kettle, Roger Twiner, ‡ parishioners, the xliij<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile, An. Regn., Reg. Elizabeth xliiij. An. Do. 1602, as followethe :—

Imp. rec. att the laste accounte	... ..	xxiijs.
It. rec. att the Communion att Whitsonntyde	...	xiijd.
It. rec. of Mr. Parson for the benevolence att two Comns., vid. Christm <sup>s</sup> and the Easter followinge	... ..	vijs. vjd.
It. rec. more at Christm <sup>s</sup> laste for the benevolence att the Comunion the same tyme	... ..	iijs. jd.
It. rec. more att the Comunion laste Easter	... ..	ijs. ijd.
It. for the Rennte of the Church house	... ..	ijs. iiijd.
It. for the Rennte of foure Beaste, whereof one re-		

\* The number of Communions varies—three, four, and five times a year.

† This word is interlined, and here first mentioned.

‡ Six of these names still exist at Knebworth.

maynethe in the hande of Widowe Ballard, one in  
the hande of Edw<sup>d</sup> Barker, one in the hande of  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Standley, and one in the hande of Phillippe

Rotherame ... .. xvjs.

Rec. more of the collection for the poore ... .. xliijs. iiijd.

Given to the poore owte of those receipts, as followethe (to 14  
persons) :—

It. to a collecton for the burninge of the town of Gam-

lingo (Gamlingay) in the Countye of Cambridge ... ijs.

Layd fourthe by the Churchwardens as followeth :—

Bread and Wine at three Comns. ijs. jd. each.

It. To Cockle for his worke about the bells ... .. xd.

to the Clerke for naylles for the bells ... .. ijd.

to the Clerke for his help aboute the bells ... .. vjd.

for two bell ropes ... .. ijs. xd.

to the Smyth for Iron work about the bells... .. ijs. xd.

to the Smyth for a staple to the stocks \* ... .. ijd.

for rope for the bells... .. ijd.

for the washinge of the Surplis ... .. iijd.

given to a poore man and a poore woman... .. ijd.

p<sup>d</sup>. for y<sup>e</sup> chargeis att y<sup>e</sup> Archdeacon's Visitn. in  
Lente ... .. ijs.

p<sup>d</sup>. for y<sup>e</sup> chargeis att y<sup>e</sup> Bishop's Visitn. afore  
Whitsontyde ... .. ijs. viijd.

for a booke sent by the Bishop ... .. viijd.

for mendinge the bellfreye stares ... .. vjd.

for a bushell of lyme for the same ... .. ijd.

to the Smythe for mendinge the church mattocks ... .. iiijd.

Sumn. of the disbursements until y<sup>e</sup> xiiijth Aprill 1602, comethe to  
xlvijjs. iiijd.

Remayneth of the Receipts ... .. xjs. ijd.

Remayneth in the Church box ... .. l.li. ijs. iiijd.

Delivered to Roger Turner to be employed upon

occasions ... .. xs.

Remayninge in the hands of Burwell Clark ... .. ijs. vjd.

————— Henrye Pratt, suertie

Mr. Lytton ... .. xxs.

\* These existed thirty years ago; the upper limb being inscribed  
"Thou shalt not steal;" which nevertheless was stolen one night, and I  
suppose burnt as fuel.



Merillde, suertie Jo.						
Mason	...	...	...	...	...	xxs.
Mihyell Feild's wyfe ... vs.						
1603. The accounte of Jo. Kettle and Edw. Darde the 14th April, 1603, before Sir Rowland Lytton Knight, &c."						
Receipts as before, with the addition—						
"R <sup>d</sup> for the woode growinge in the Church raile	...	...	...	...	...	vjs. viijd."
Expenses as before, with the addition						
"For halfe a hyde of white leather for ij bell ropes...	...	...	...	...	...	ijs.
the glaysyre for y <sup>e</sup> Church windows	...	...	...	...	...	vjs.
to hedginge y <sup>e</sup> Churchyard	...	...	...	...	...	ijs. iiijd.
for a sheete of parchmente *	...	...	...	...	...	vijjd.
for Bushes	...	...	...	...	...	iiijd.
for y <sup>e</sup> carryinge of them	...	...	...	...	...	xxd.
for stakes and edders † for y <sup>e</sup> Churchyarde	...	...	...	...	...	xxd."

It is worth observation that there is no insertion of payments for sparrows, or foxes, or other vermin, in these early accounts. In a thickly wooded country parish like Knebworth, of course they swarmed, as they do now; but in this respect the villagers of those days were wiser than they were in the next two centuries. I question whether Churchwardens paid for such things earlier than the middle or end of the seventeenth century. I hope none do so now.

The accounte of John Kettle and Thom<sup>s</sup> Sibley was presented for two years, 1604, 5, the xiiijth of Aprill, 1605.

The receipts for the Beasts vary a little.

"Rec. of Mother Cawdell for a Cowe	...	...	...	...	...	vijjd.
Im. receyved of John Kettle for two of the townes beasts (apparently sold to him)	...	...	...	...	...	iiijli ijs. iiijd.
rec. for 4 of the townes beasts rent	...	...	...	...	...	xvjs.
rec. for one Kowe hide	...	...	...	...	...	ijs.
rec. for three beasts	...	...	...	...	...	xvjs.
rec. of Widowe Ballard for the rent of a Kowe w <sup>h</sup> died about our Ladies day	...	...	...	...	...	ijs.

\* This was very dear; the charge in S. Michael's Bath rolls is always 2d.

† Hedges. *Eder breche* is the trespass of hedge-breaking.

Impr <sup>s</sup> pd. for a Kowe	...	...	...	...	xlvijs. viijd.
— another Kowe	...	...	...	...	xlvijs. vjd.
(Evidently to replace the two "townes beasts" sold as above.)					
The glasier	...	...	...	...	vjs. vjd.
— Smythe	...	...	...	...	iiijd.
ii belropes	...	...	...	...	iijs. vijd.
to the Apparit <sup>r</sup> * at Huntingdon	...	...	...	...	iijs. ijd.
— Registere	...	...	...	...	ijs. vjd.
half a load of bushes	...	...	...	...	vjs.
one rayle and som pales	...	...	...	...	ijs. ijd.
two labourers for one dayes worke	...	...	...	...	xvjd.
more to them for a dayes worke	...	...	...	...	xxd.
paling about y <sup>e</sup> Churchyarde	...	...	...	...	vs. vijd.
to Tho <sup>s</sup> Field for caryinge bushes	...	...	...	...	xijd.
the Appar <sup>r</sup> for our booke	...	...	...	...	xd.
caryinge y <sup>e</sup> register to Huntingdon	...	...	...	...	xijd.
Smith for y <sup>e</sup> mending of a clapper	...	...	...	...	ijs. vjd.
To Parker and Cockell for iiij dayes worke	...	...	...	...	iijs. viijd.
The chargeis for one Courte att Balldocke and for y <sup>e</sup>					
apparator	...	...	...	...	xxd.
for three bookes	...	...	...	...	xijs. iiijd.
p <sup>d</sup> to Kettle upon his accounte	...	...	...	...	xxxiijs. ix d.
— to y <sup>e</sup> Clarke for makinge of Master Wrighte's					
grave	...	...	...	...	viijd.
— to Jo. Camfield for keeping of Eliz. Hyll for ix					
weekes when she was delivered	...	...	...	...	xvijs.

Memorandum.—Payde to Richarde Bigg of Rye Ende and to Jhon Dards of Dardes Ende y<sup>e</sup> elder; collections for y<sup>e</sup> poore of Knebworthe, the therde of October, the some of x<sup>l</sup>, w<sup>h</sup> I Robrt. Hodgekins, Clerc, did owe to the Church Boxe: the w<sup>ch</sup> some of x<sup>li</sup> remainethe in the saide collectors hands to the use of the poore boxe upon this accounte, etc, 1605.

1606. The acc<sup>t</sup> of Ric<sup>d</sup> Purley and John Cackell, Churchw<sup>ns</sup>, and Ric<sup>d</sup> Bigge and Jo. Dardes overseers. In the pres. of Sir Rowland Lytton, July 20.

No receipts recorded.

\*This word is a great trouble. It is spelt "Parryto<sup>r</sup>," "Aparyt<sup>r</sup>," "Aparator," and at length, 1606, "Apparitor."

Paid. for 3 hundred of tyle and 12 widyr tyle	...	vs.
for $\frac{1}{2}$ a quarter of lyme	... ..	xvjs.
to Corke and hys man for a dayes worke and a halfe	... ..	iijs.
for nayles and tyle pynnes	... ..	iiijd.
Old John Dards for ranging tyle and sand...	...	xvjd.
to the glasier for mending the windowes	... ..	iijs. vjd.
for a hundred of board with the cariadge	... ..	ixs.
— 2c of nayles	... ..	xxd.
— 2 dayes worke and a halfe	... ..	ijs. vjd.
for a cushion for y <sup>e</sup> pulpitt	... ..	ijs. ijd.
for carrying in of y <sup>e</sup> register bill	... ..	ijd.
for helving a mattock for y <sup>e</sup> Church	... ..	ijd.
for a baskett for y <sup>e</sup> Church	... ..	iiijd.

1607. 30<sup>mo</sup> Aprilis.

There was due to y <sup>e</sup> Churchwardens as appeareth by their bill	... ..	iiijli. xvijs. viijd.
There was due to the poore man's box from collections for ye poore	... ..	xxvijs. iiijd.
Mem. to deduct owte of the collection for the poore for Mardolphe	... ..	iiijd.
Itm. for Widowe Greene yearlie	... ..	iiijd.

1609. The account of the Churchw<sup>ns</sup> and y<sup>e</sup> Overseers of the parish of Knebworth for y<sup>e</sup> year past taken y<sup>e</sup> x<sup>th</sup> of May, 1609. Apparently for 1608-9.

Rec. upon y <sup>e</sup> yearly collection for y <sup>e</sup> poore	... ..	xlijs. ijd.
The rent of iij townes beasts	... ..	xijs.
Of Willm. Greene in consideracn of the x <sup>li</sup> w <sup>ch</sup> is in his handes	... ..	xs.
for a collect <sup>n</sup> for repayinge the fence of y <sup>e</sup> Churchyard	... ..	vili. ix. s. vijd.
for chips that came of y <sup>e</sup> rayles	... ..	iijs. xjd.
Layd out in almes to y <sup>e</sup> poor	... ..	xlvijs. iiijd.
For timber	... ..	iiijli.
for felling y <sup>e</sup> timber	... ..	ijs.
Layd out for cutting out of y <sup>e</sup> timber	... ..	js. xd.
a dayes worke when we fetcht home y <sup>e</sup> timber	... ..	js. iiijd.

for breade and drinke at y <sup>e</sup> same time	...	...	js. iijd.
for hewinge iij loades and a half of timber	...	...	xiijs. ix.
for saweing of vij (hundred) and iij skore foote			xxiijs. ix.
Itm. to y <sup>e</sup> carpenter for settinge up y <sup>e</sup> rayles of y <sup>e</sup> churchyard with a gate and a stile, beinge xi pole and halfe	...	...	xxxxs.
for hookes and hinges from y <sup>e</sup> Smith	...	...	iijs. iij.
For y <sup>e</sup> booke of Cannons	...	...	ijs.
For a booke of Articles	...	...	vjd.
To the apparitor	...	...	iijs.
for the calinge of y <sup>e</sup> Churchwardens at the Bishop's visitacon att Hytchen *	...	...	iiij.
for breade and wine at Michaelmas	...	...	xxiiij.
for the calinge att y <sup>e</sup> visitacon at Baldocke	...	...	vij.
for the bill	...	...	vjd.
for y <sup>e</sup> dinner	...	...	xviiij.
for us at y <sup>e</sup> visitacon after Ester	...	...	iijs.
for or. bill	...	...	vjd.
for a Roole of parchment	...	...	vjd.
for y <sup>e</sup> carreinge of or. bills	...	...	ijs.
for or. charges at y <sup>e</sup> visitacon at Hitchin	...	...	ijs.
for makinge of a bill	...	...	ijd.
for mendinge a clapper	...	...	ijd.
For a shovel	...	...	xij.
For breade and wine at 5 Comns.	...	...	xs. iiij.
For xvij hundred of tiles	...	...	xviijs. vd.
— v hundred of laths	...	...	vjs.
— xxij bushells of lime	...	...	xs. viij.
— xxi hundred of nayles	...	...	iijs. iij.
— Crafts worke	...	...	viijs.
— v peckes of tiles pinns	...	...	ijs. vjd.
— a dayes work att cart and for one load	...	...	viijs.
Somme.			xiiijl. xvijs. iiij.
Md. ovr. to the new overseers	...	...	xvijs.

\* Knebworth was at this time in the Diocese of Lincoln, and the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon. The Bishop held his visitation at Hitchin, no doubt as a larger and more central town; the Archdeacon held his at Baldock, but the registers, at least the copies of them, were carried to be deposited in the Archdeacon's muniments at Huntingdon.

Re. vli. w <sup>h</sup> Mardolph had the last yeere is now in y <sup>e</sup>		
handes of Will <sup>m</sup> Greene, of Rustlinge Endd	...	vli.
It. ther remayneth in Henry Pratts hands	... ..	xxs.
—— remayneth in John Masons hands	... ..	xxs.

Here ends the record of Knebworth doings 270 years ago. The names of the various village and parochial localities remain as then. "Dardes End" is now "Deards' End;" "Tray Housen," "Three houses," "Rustlinge End," and "Rye Ende" are so still; the latter a singular piece of ground with a few cottages on it, a couple of miles from the village, and surrounded by the adjoining parish of Kimpton.

The accounts of 1609 are curious to one who, like myself knew its circumstances in 1862, when a similar work was carried out of repairing the fence of the churchyard. I imagine the size of the churchyard itself is the same now as it was then; the church stands in the park, surrounded by it on all sides, and its condition shows its antiquity: it is almost impossible to dig a grave without disturbing ancient interments, and it affords a proof, if any were needed, that in even small country parishes it would be on all accounts desirable to close the existing churchyards, and establish a cemetery: this, however, is by the way. In 1862 it cost £69 15s. to re-pale 31 rod of fencing; in 1609 it cost altogether £7 13s. 11d. to re-pale 11½ *pole*, which appears in the tables to be equivalent to a *rod*. Calculating roughly, a rod of fencing in 1609 cost about 13s. 4d., and in 1862 £1 2s. 6d. I do not exactly know what is the difference between 1609 and 1862 in the relative value of money, but I imagine 13s. 4d. in 1609 would be equivalent to far more than £1 2s. 6d. now. Less than 100 years earlier, Mr. Froude calculates that money was worth twelve times as much as now. The earlier estimate, however, included a gate and a stile, as well as palings.

After all, our attempts at comparisons of expenses in different centuries are tentative at best, and cannot, so far as I am able to discover, be reduced to any certain laws.