

WASC 771

On Her Majesty's Service

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WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH MONTHLY.

June, 1898.

BAPTISMS.

- April 23—Florence Emily Wilsheer.
 „ 24—James Edward Marsh.
 „ 24—William Frederick Edward Mansfield.
 „ 24—Eleanor Clark.
 May 15—Charles Rayment Fowler.
 „ 15—Frank Barnard.
 „ 15—William David Mason.

MARRIAGES.

- April 30—Mr. John William Dykes, of Sewardstone, and Miss Alice Amelia Crawley, of Chigwell Row.
 May 7—Mr. John Burgess, and Miss Florence Johnson, of Victoria Villas.
 „ 14—Mr. Charles Patmore and Miss Lilian Mary Dew, both of Sewardstone.
 April 10—At All Souls' Church, Langham Place, Mr. James Douglas, of The Gardens, Gillwell Park, Sewardstone, and Miss Jeannie Elizabeth Bate.
 „ 9—At Stapleford Tawney, Mr. Harry Freshwater, and Miss Florrie Parrish, of Honey Lane.

DEATHS.

- May 7—Bessie Mabel Dobinson, of The Rome-land, aged 7 years.
 „ 12—Mr. Thomas Merrett Mead, of 60, Standard Road, Enfield Lock, and formerly of Paradise Row, aged 25 years.

THE HISTORY OF THE ABBEY CHURCH OF WALTHAM HOLY CROSS.

XCVI.

In his will, dated at Cheshunt on September 7th, 1549, Sir Anthony Denny bequeathed to his eldest son Henry, his manors of Nazing, Mettingham, and all his lands in Norfolk and Suffolk; to his dearly-beloved wife Joan, Lady Denny, his manors of Cheshunt, Holyfield Hall, and Sibton, Suffolk, with all his lands in the parish of Waltham, and sundry estates in Nazing; to his son Charles, the lordship of Bedwell; to his son Edward, his lands in Hertfordshire; and to his son Edmond, his lordship in Herts, and Harold's Park, in Essex. He appears also to have made provision, out of certain estates, for the maintenance of three other children, who are named Anne, Marye, and Douglass, in an account of payments and allowances made in accordance with their father's

will. After the death of Henry VIII., which occurred on January 27th, 1547, the grant of the monastic estates of Waltham was confirmed by King Edward VI., and Sir Anthony's lease was made to extend over thirty-one years. On the decease of this worthy knight, his widow was required to pay into the Royal exchequer the enormous sum of upwards of three thousand pounds for the *reversion in fee*, and for the recognition of her right to certain estates, and to privileges enjoyed by her in Waltham Forest. In Chancellor Goodrick's ledger there is an account of "a purchase granted to the Lady Johan Denny, widow of Sir Anthony Denny, for the sum of £3,202 7s. 0¾d., of the lordships and manors of Waltham and Nazing, with the appurtenances, with the fulling mill and two water mills, late parcel of the dissolved Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross, with the parsonage and church of Mettingham and of Sibton, late parcel of the possession of the Duke of Norfolk, extending into the yearly value of £103 4s. 8d. To have to her and her heirs the manor *in capite*. Dated April 16th, 1552." Strype also mentions this sum, but in the Warrant Book the sum of £4,102 7s. is stated.

Lady Joan Denny was the daughter of Sir Philip Champernown, of Modbury, in Devonshire, and is described by Dr. Fuller as "a lady of great beauty and parts, a favourer of the Reformed religion when the times were most dangerous." Her ladyship was attached to the Court of Henry VIII. as one of the ladies in attendance on Queen Katherine Parr, the eighth and last consort of the inconstant monarch. The Queen and her ladies were diligent students of the Word of God, and so were led to take a lively interest in the movement which had been set on foot, both in this country and in Germany, to restore the pure religion of Christ to the Church of God. Their sympathy with the Reformers not only aroused the suspicions of powerful statesmen, who were opposed to reform, but brought upon them the bitter hatred of the whole Romish party in the Council of State, at a time when its members had succeeded in persuading the capricious Sovereign that it was necessary to bar the progress of a movement which, they represented, would only bring about a revolution both in Church and State. Acting on their advice, and with this end in view, he prohibited the private study of Holy Scripture, and insisted on the acceptance of "the Six Articles," which asserted the distinctive doctrines of the Romish faith. The lives of these noble and pious women were therefore placed in great jeopardy by this plot of the enemies of true religion. One of their number was called upon to follow her Saviour in the way of the Cross, and to testify to the truth of the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ by her sufferings and death. Queen Katherine herself only escaped from the malicious designs of her bitter enemies through her tact, and influence over her Royal husband. The Court ladies, suspected of favouring the Protestant cause, are mentioned as follows:—

1. Katherine, Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby, Duchess of Suffolk, the last wife of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

2. Anne, Countess of Sussex, daughter of Sir Philip Calthorp, and second wife of Henry Ratcliffe, second Earl of Sussex, K.G.

3. Anne Stanhope, Countess of Hertford, afterwards Duchess of Somerset, "whose chiefest study was the Holy Bible."

4. Joan, Lady Denny, daughter of Sir Philip Champernown, and wife of Sir Anthony Denny, a Privy Councillor, and Groom of the Stole to King Henry VIII.

5. Lady Anne Askew, second daughter of Sir William Askew, or Ayscough, of Kelsey, in Lincolnshire, and married, against her will, to Master Kyme, or Kime, a harsh and bigoted Romanist.

6. Lady Fitzwilliam, widow of Sir William Fitzwilliam, and an Alderman of the City of London, who died in 1534.

Anne Askew seems to have been the leading spirit among these lovers of the truth, and was suspected of imbuing the Queen's mind with the principles of the Reformation. It is said that she gave her Royal mistress some Protestant books in the presence of Lady Herbert, Lady Tyrwhitt, and the youthful Lady Jane Grey. She is described as a gentle, devout, and learned lady, who, "by oft reading the sacred Bible, fell clearly from all old superstitions of papistry to a perfect belief in Jesus Christ, whereby she so offended the priests, that her husband, at their suggestion, violently drove her out of his house." Bonner, the intolerant Bishop of London; Gardiner, the bigoted rival of Archbishop Cranmer; Wriothesley, the ferocious Lord Chancellor, and other bitter persecutors of the true faith, had long been waiting for an opportunity of arousing the angry passions of the King against his wife, because she favoured the revival of learning and the primitive religion. They thought now that if they could only secure the person of Anne Askew for a breach of the law, they would compel her to divulge Court secrets, which would implicate the Queen and ensure her downfall. They induced the King, therefore, to issue a proclamation for the discovery and surrender of heretical books. In this document, which appeared on July 6th, 1546, he commanded that "no man, woman, or other person of what estate, condition, or degree he or they may be, shall, after the last day of August next ensuing, receive, have, take, or keep in his or their possession the text of the New Testament of Tyndale's or Coverdale's," etc. A search was made in the Royal palace, and several Protestant books, the gift of Anne Askew, were discovered in the Queen's apartments. Five days after the discovery this young lady was apprehended, and sent to Newgate, "to remain there to answer to the lawe." She was afterwards removed to the Tower of London, and there put to the rack, to extort from her a confession which would both incriminate herself and implicate the Queen and her companions at Court. But the noble-hearted lady maintained her integrity under this inhuman torture, and refused to betray her friends or name any of those who shared her creed. By her fidelity she secured the safety of Lady Denny and others, who must have been conscious of the extreme peril in which they were placed during that terrible ordeal. When her merciless persecutors asked her of "my Lady of Sussex, my Lady of Hertford, my Lady Denny, and my Lady Fitzwilliam," the heroic woman replied: "If I should pronounce anything against them, I should not be able to prove it." During her incarceration and sufferings for the truth, she received substantial proofs and tokens of the goodwill and loving sympathy of her Christian friends and companions in the faith. Lady Hertford and Lady

Denny are specially mentioned in the accounts given of those who sent to relieve her necessities when she languished in the dungeon, for the truth as it is in Jesus. Dr. Fuller refers to the bounty of Lady Denny in the following terms: "She sent eight shillings by her man in a violet coat, to Anne Aschough, when imprisoned in the Counter [Compter]; a small sum, yet a great gift; so hazardous it was to help any in her condition." When her cruel foes pressed her to name the persons from whom she had received relief, she admitted that "there was a man in a blue coat which delivered me ten shillings, and said that my Lady of Hertford sent it me; and another in a violet coat gave me eight shillings, and said my Lady Denny sent it me. Whether it were true or no," she added, "I cannot tell, for I am not sure who sent it me, but as the men did say."

The true character and disposition of these opponents of the Reformation are clearly shown by their brutal treatment of this delicate young lady, who was only twenty-five years of age at the time of her sufferings. They were utterly lacking in the spirit of the tender-hearted, loving Christ, who came not to torture gentle women or destroy men's lives, but to relieve and save them. The holy woman herself reminded the bloodthirsty Gardiner of this fact, when, in reply to his threat that he would consign her to the flames, she said: "I have searched all the Scriptures, yet could I never find that Christ or His Apostles put any creature to death." Bishop Burnet, in his account of the torture to which this young martyr was subjected, states that "Wriothesley was present, and commanded the Lieutenant of the Tower to draw the rack a little more; but he refused to do it; upon which the Chancellor laid aside his gown, and drew it himself with so much force as if he had intended to rend the body asunder." He was assisted in his horrible task by the equally infamous Sir Richard Rich. Foxe tells us that Sir Anthony Knyvett, the Lieutenant, went to Henry VIII. to complain of their violence, and to defend himself from the malice of the Chancellor, who had threatened him; "which, when the King had understood, he seemed not very well to like their extreme handling of the woman, and also granted the Lieutenant his pardon, willing him to return and see to his charge." But the Royal tyrant had no real pity in his heart for poor Anne Askew, for it appears that he had himself ordered the racking, to punish her for bringing heretical books among the ladies of his Court; and shortly after this dreadful scene he commanded that she should be burned at the stake. According to Foxe, "she was brought into Smithfield in a chaire, because she could not goe on her feet by means of her great torments." Thus Henry VIII., at the very close of his life, after he had, for his own selfish ends, repudiated the supremacy of the Pope and suppressed the monasteries as strongholds of the Papacy, showed himself the true son of that corrupt and intolerant system in which he had been brought up—a system which could not endure the pure doctrines of the Gospel, and in direct opposition to the spirit and teaching of Christ, sought to enforce the acceptance of its errors by means of fire and the sword, after the example of that anti-Christ and false prophet of Arabia, Mahomet. The constancy of Lady Anne Askew was rewarded on July 16th, 1546, when, together with three brethren in the faith, she received the glorious crown of martyrdom from the hands of her beloved Lord. According to the statement of an eye-witness, the blessed martyr entered into the rest and glory of Paradise with "an angel's countenance and a smiling face."

Lady Denny is mentioned several times in the State Letters. About the year 1539, Lord John Hussey writes to Lady Lisle: "Mrs. Denny thanks you for your token, and sends a gold cramp ring. I moved the matter concerning my Lady Elizabeth. She answered that suit was made for Mrs. Hill, and the King answered that she should no more, but my Lady Garrett's daughter was lately admitted, so that her Grace was full furnished, and he said she had too much 'uthe' [youth] about her. However, Mrs. Denny offered, if you would, to move Mr. Denny to speak to the King, but she thinks the matter will take none effect, for divers haive had nay in like suit. . . . If your letter had come in season, I would never have moved Mrs. Denny. I know, unless further suit be made, she will never make motion of it." The warrant of Edward VI. for the payment of the late King's legacy to her husband is recorded as follows:—"At the Star Chamber, Friday, vij. Februarie [1550].—A warraunt to Mr. Pecham, for the payment of three hundredth poundes to the Lady Denny, wief unto Sir Anthony Denny, deceased, as for the legacy bequeathed unto the said Sir Anthony." In "the Acts of the Privy Council," June 20th, 1550, we find "A letter to the Chauncellor of the augmentacions to compounde with. . . the Ladie Denny and others, for certein housing and meddows at Waltham."

Mr. Robert Cressy, probably a member of the family related to Archbishop Cranmer, rented the Fulling Mill, in Waltham, of Lady Joan Denny, during the reign of Edward VI., at an annual rental of forty shillings. This mill appears to have been situated in High Bridge Street, near Waltham Marsh, and formerly belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Waltham. It served the purpose of scouring and cleansing cloth as early as the year 1402. Another Fulling Mill stood in Powdermill Lane, in or near the Engineers' Yard, which was called in those days "Fullar's Field." It is supposed that the Royal Government Factory at Waltham Abbey had its origin, in a mill or mills belonging to Sir Anthony Denny, who is said to have supplied his Royal master with gunpowder made at Waltham. After the death of Sir Anthony, John Tamworth, or Thomworth, held the Powder Mills of Lady Denny. The Calendar of State Papers of Queen Elizabeth's reign records that in 1560 Tamworth, on behalf of his Sovereign, entered into a treaty with an Italian, named Marco Antonio Erizzo, for the purchase of saltpetre, sulphur, and bow staves for barrels. Erizzo addresses him as "Sor Jioan Thomworth, a Valtan Abe [at Waltham Abbey]." He is also mentioned in "the Lansdowne Charters" as the Executor of Lady Denny's will. A vellum roll of the Denny property gives the following heading: "the accompts of John Tamworth, Esq., Executor of the last Will and Testament of the late Lady Denny, widowe, of and for all the clere Revenues and Profites of Landes and Manors, by him received, from the Feaste of Sainte Michael, the Archangell, in the yere of our Lorde God, 1555, unto the Feaste in the yere of our Lorde God, 1556."

Lady Denny died on May 15th, 1553, seven years after the martyrdom of her dear and faithful friend, Anne Askew, and nearly two months before the death of the pious and amiable young Sovereign who loved and supported the principles of the glorious Reformation, which she had cherished in her heart for years. Her ladyship was therefore mercifully spared from witnessing the sad eclipse of Mary's reign and all its attendant horrors. She was probably interred at St. Mary's Church, Cheshunt, and placed by the side of her dear husband. At the time of her decease she

held the manors of Waltham, Nazing, etc., three mills, a cottage, and a tenement called the Hermitage, together with all the courts, fairs, liberties, and profits of the manors. Her husband's will mentions four sons, namely, Henry, Edward, Charles, and Edmond, and another document appears to refer to three other children, Anne, Mary, and Douglass; but Dr. Fuller names two only in his account of Lady Denny, as follows: "She bare two sons to Sir Anthony, Henry Denny, Esq., of whom hereafter; the second, Sir Edward, who, by God's blessing, Queen Elizabeth's bounty, and his own valour, achieved a fair estate in the county of Kerry, in Ireland, which at this day is (if anything in that woeful, war-wasted country can be) enjoyed by his great grandchild, Arthur Denny, Esq., of Tralleigh [Tralee]." Sir Edward died in 1599, and was interred in the Abbey Church on the south-east of the Chancel, where his noble monument still stands.

May 18th, 1898.

J. H. STAMP, Curate.

WALTHAM ABBEY. NOTICES FOR THE MONTH.

- June 1-4—Ember Days.
- " 5—Trinity Sunday. Holy Communion at 9 a.m., and after Morning and Evening Prayers.
- " 11—Festival of St. Barnabas. Morning Prayer at 10.
- " 20—Anniversary of the Queen's Accession, 1837.
- " 24—Nativity of St. John Baptist. Morning Prayer at 10.
- " 29—Festival of St. Peter. Morning Prayer at 10. Evening Prayer, with Sermon, at 7.
- " 30—Communicants' Guild. Meeting, 8.15 p.m.

The usual Services were held in the Abbey Church on Ascension Day. Thirty-five members of the St. Lawrence Company of the Church Lads' Brigade attended the Evening Service, when the Vicar preached on St. John xx. 17.

"The Builder" of April 2nd contains an illustrated account of Waltham Abbey, which has been chosen as the subject of the twenty-fifth article on the Abbeys of Great Britain. The illustrations include a view of the interior from the south-east, showing the immense size of the pillars and the elegance of the Nave arcade, ground plans of the Church and Monastery, great west doorway, remains of grand west front on the south and west front of Lady Chapel. The article and illustrations are the work of Mr. Roland W. Paul.

The Sale of Work at Abbey Lodge on April 29th was a complete success, and the sum realised amounted to £100, which will be used, under the management of Mrs. Parnell, as a Nursing Fund for the benefit of the distressed poor in time of illness.

Lady Gwendoline Colvin kindly opened the Sale, and was supported by Lady Frances, the Vicar, Major Johnston, and other ladies and gentlemen.