

Monday, being supposed to be slayne by the Warrener of Detling and was buried here."

The year 1647 would seem to have been one of grave fatality in the little village :—

"Ellen Roades, killed by a fall into a draw-well, was buried the 6th July."

"Matthew Low, a Bricklayer, died at ye ale house and was buried September 23. *Advena fuit et a morbo in itinere correptus post dies aliquot occubuit.*"

Turning from deaths to births, we will close our extracts from the Church Register with the record of a somewhat startling event, which runs thus :—

1661. "Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Smith, Clerk of ye Parish, born of his wife Anne, on Thursday about 4 of ye clock in ye afternoon, June ye 20th, and baptized on Saturday, June 22nd, and Thomas, ye son of ye same Thomas Smith and Anne, his wife, born on Sunday after, about 4 of ye clock afternoon, baptized ye same day June 23rd. There was a third also stillborn (*anonyma*) a daughter born about five of ye clock on the same Sunday morning. *Mirabilis Deus in operibus suis.*"

This was the last entry made in the Baptismal Register by the Rev. W. Sutton, who died soon after, closing a long Vicariate, during a momentous quarter of a century, from 1639 to 1662.

CHARITIES.

Under the head of Charities, Detling certainly does not present a very brilliant appearance; possibly there is hardly a parish in the County which can show so insignificant an array of Benefactions. This may be partly accounted for by the circumstances of the parish already alluded to. For centuries it hardly had a resident landowner of any importance; its real landlords appeared in the Vestry Books under the

Charities
very few
in number.

name of "Out-dwellers." Its principal residents (with the single exception of the Webbe family, and some of the Polhills) were only tenants,* and therefore had no such permanent interest in the poor of the parish as would prompt them to make any bequests for their future benefit.

To what extent absenteeism prevailed among the original family of the "Detlinges" it is impos-
Non-resident
Landowners.
 sible to say ; but it is clear that from the time when the last daughter of the house married Thomas Towne, of Thorneley,† about the year 1400, till 1822, when, on the death of Mr. G. H. Foote, of Malling Abbey, Mr. R. Rugg‡ bought the East Court Farm (which his family had rented for nearly a century), and in 1849 added to it the West Court property, Detling had never, save once or twice, and then only for short periods, enjoyed the advantages of a resident owner of the land. Hence, as we have said, probably arose the paucity of the Parish Benefactions.

One Legacy, indeed there is, which has been already alluded to in connection with the donor's monument ; the Rev. James Sharpe, so long connected with the
Sharpe's
Legacy.
 parish, first as Curate and eventually as Vicar, bequeathed a sum of money in Consols sufficient to produce £5 a year to be given to the Teacher or Superintendent of the Sunday school. The only other permanent
The Polhill
Legacy.
 Legacy is thus recorded in the parish Vestry Book, under date 1680 :—

"Edmund Polhill's Will maketh menthion of a sarttain anewaty of tenne shillings the year, that was given by him out of a sarttain pees [piece?] or parsell of land of his, called Cropel Hill, for ever to be paid to the Ch.wardens of the Parish of Detling ; and they

* See p. 49. † See p. 10. ‡ See pp. 14, 15.

two dispoas of the same equally two the priest, an the clerk, and to poor aged peopell, all of them equal according as the Ch.wardens shall think them to have most need. To be paid every year at Easter. His Will beareth date 1554. Scantht [sanctioned?] by Samuel Steapley an by William Harvey, Church-wardens, 1680.*

The land charged with this payment is the field now known as "Carbel Hill," near Scragged Oak, consisting of nearly eight acres; it is most probable that at the period of the bequest, 350 years ago, the sum of ten shillings represented the actual rental of the field, but neither the advance in the value of the land, nor the depreciation of the currency, have been recognised as affecting the recipients of the Legacy; the exact sum of ten shillings having remained as the annual payment from the owner of the land, and it is divided into three equal parts, one for the Vicar, a second for the parish clerk, and the third for the school,—three shillings and fourpence being considered a perplexingly small sum to divide among any number of poor families.

Besides the Polhill Legacy, the only sums known to have been bequeathed, even for the temporary benefit of the parish, are the following:—Ten shillings by one Alexander Maivors, in the year 1647,† and in 1657 another member of the Polhill family gave twenty shillings.‡ There is another bequest to be mentioned,

Smaller
Bequests.

* Another reference to this bequest is found inserted among the entries in the Marriage Register under that year to the following effect,—"Edmund Polhill, of Detling, (who gave by will ten shillings per annum to priest, clerk, and poor people, of the lands called Gopal Hill,) died before this Register began, his Will bearing date A.D. 1554," to which is appended the following note.—"This Legacy hath bin accustomed to bee paide on Easter Day, and then distributed to the clerk, (priest or minister) and poore of the parish.—William Sutton, Vicar."

† Thus entered in the register;—

1647. Alexander Maivors, an old man of this Parish, was buried September 8th. Hee gave by his Will tenne shillings to the poore of this Parish.

‡ 1657. Henry Polhill, an ancient inhabitant, buried April 10th. He gave twenty shillings to the poor.

which appears to have been made in the year 1680, according to the following entry in the Church Register :—

“Memorandum, that on the twentieth of November, 1680, att the funeral of the Lady Clerke, late inhabitant of the parish of Deptling, there was given to the said parish The Pall. a black cloth Pall, for the use of any of the said parish when need shall require. By me, Tho. Clerke.”

One other annual payment to the parish deserves special notice. When the Rev. Robert Cobb, in 1856, School undertook the building of the National School, Endowment. he was so indefatigable—and proved so irresistible—in soliciting subscriptions, that he not only obtained enough for the erection of a very substantial building, but was able to invest a sum for an endowment which now produces £15 a year towards defraying the school expences. The building cost £680; the site was valued at £162, a gift from Mr. R. Rugg; and the balance, £458, was funded as an endowment.

CONCLUSION.

Thus is our little work brought to a close. It has involved considerable labour and research: yet has it been a labour of love. What parish, however meagre in local associations, can fail to enlist the interest of one who finds it his appointed sphere of ministerial duty? In the present case such objects of interest have been by no means wanting to the writer; and he sincerely hopes that the inhabitants, and the neighbours, of the Detling of to-day, will find something to interest them in the attempt he has now made to place on record the doings of “Detling in days gone by.”