

Br. 2490 / 1792 Y
1792 Secretary
of Hampshire

STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE,

IS nine miles from Winchester, and sixty-seven from London. It is a noted thoroughfare with some good inns in the south-west road from London; but it is a poor place. It has been a long time famous for wheelwrights and carpenters. The market is on Thursday; fairs, Holy-Thurday, July 10, and Oct. 7, for all cattle, especially sheep. Houghton-Downs, in the neighbourhood, are noted for horse-races.

This is a borough by prescription. The right of election is in the inhabitants housekeepers paying scot and lot, that is, in short, all who pay to church and poor. They have no particular patron; but Mr. Bucker, formerly landlord of the principal inn in the town, is a leading man amongst them. The frequent petitions which have been presented to parliament on the score of bribery, from this place, shew, either that this borough is more than ordinarily open to corruption, or that it is more thameless in the exercise of it, as may be seen by what follows.

Nov. 15, 1689. Upon special report, from the committee of privileges and elections, of gross and notorious bribery at an election for the borough of Stockbridge, in com. Southampton, resolved, That W. Montague and W. Strode, Esqrs. are not duly elected; and that the said election is a void election. Ordered, That Richard Hewes, the bailiff, P. Robinson Gatehouse, and S. Hall, be sent for into the custody of the serjeant at arms, for giving and taking bribes at the said election. Resolved, That W. Montague, Esq. be disabled from being elected to serve in this present parliament for the said borough of Stockbridge. That a debate arising touching the disfranchising the said borough for ever hereafter from sending burgesses to parliament, and that instead thereof two more knights of the shire be chosen for the county of Southampton; resolved, "That a bill be brought in for disabling the said borough of Stockbridge to send burgesses to serve in parliament for the future." And the said bill was brought in the same session, and read a first and second time, and committed, but was thrown out on the third reading.

Sir Richard Steele represented this borough in the reign of Queen Anne: his mode of bribery will long be remembered. He carried his election, against a powerful opposition, by the merry expedient of sticking a large apple full of guineas, and declaring it should be the prize of that voter whose wife should first be brought to-bed after that day nine months. This, we are told, procured him the interest of the women, who are said to commemorate Sir Richard's bounty to this day; and they once made a strenuous effort to procure a standing order of the corporation, that no man should ever be received as a candidate who did not offer the same terms.

In a pension-list published in the reign of Charles II. there appears the following extraordinary paragraph:—"Sir Robert Howard, (member for Stockbridge,) auditor of the receipts of the exchequer, 3000 pounds per annum. Many great places and boons he has had; but, his wh— Uphill spends all, and now refuses to marry him."

Many trials took place in the King's Bench, for bribery, &c. at the election of 1790; and one John Dixon, a voter in behalf of Major Scott and Mr. Cater, was convicted of perjury on that occasion, and was carried to the county jail in Winchester, where he suffered six months imprisonment, and afterwards stood in the pillory at Stockbridge. Some time after, a voter at Stockbridge, under the impression that a prosecution was commenced against him for perjury,

jury, destroyed himself. Several convictions took place relative to this election at the Hampshire assizes, but the parties have seldom been punished as they deserved.—The petition of Mr. Barham and Mr. Porter against Major Scott and Mr. Cator, who were returned, was determined in February 1793 against the sitting members, and Mr. Barham and Mr. Porter were declared duly elected. A bill was brought into parliament in April following, which went to disfranchise no less than sixty-three electors of this borough for perjury at the said election.—Leave to bring in the bill was obtained, by a majority of one only, the numbers being 18 against it and 19 for it. The owners of houses in the borough presented a petition to the house, praying that they might be heard by counsel against the said bill, which was granted.—On the 27th of May, on the question for receiving the report of the committee on the bill, a debate of considerable length took place; in the course of which, it was argued, in support of the bill, and in favour of the motion, that the evidence appearing on the minutes of the committee, went to prove in a clear and satisfactory manner, that a majority of the electors at the last election had been guilty of corruption; that in such a case it was proper and just to make an arrangement for preventing similar abuses in future; that the laying open the borough was the best means of attaining that object, and was not to be considered as a matter of experiment, because the good effects of it had been ascertained in other cases, particularly in the case of Cricklade; and that the bill did by no means go to incapacitate any of the electors of the borough of Stockbridge, but only to extend the right of voting to certain other persons, who were to enjoy it along with them: on these grounds, the motion for receiving the report was supported by Mr. Elliot, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Serjeant Watson, Sir Francis Basset, and Mr. Hardinge.—On the other hand it was denied, that there appeared, in the minutes of the committee, any evidence which could satisfy the house, that a majority of the electors had been guilty of corruption, or indeed that any of them had been so; that the right of elective franchise was, in true, legal, and constitutional, language, a valuable and important right and privilege, the communication of which to others was in fact an incapacitation, to a certain extent, of those by whom it was at present enjoyed; that, in this view, the present bill was truly a bill of pains and penalties, and therefore unjust, both as proceeding without evidence of guilt, and because it would operate as an *ex post facto* law, against persons who had no intimation *a priori*, that, by acting as they did, they would be subjected to such a punishment as was inflicted by the present bill. On these grounds the motion was opposed, and a negative given to the bill, by Sir Richard Hill, Mr. Welbore Ellis, Mr. Powys, Mr. Barham, and the Attorney and Solicitor Generals. The house divided: ayes, 33; noes, 42; majority against the bill, 9.

This town never sent to parliament till the 1st of Elizabeth. It has no corporation, being a borough by prescription, and governed by a titular bailiff, (who is the returning officer,) constable, and serjeant at mace. The number of voters is 57.—The bailiff, who is generally an innkeeper, or one dependent on an innkeeper, is, as above remarked, the returning officer at elections; now it is said that the innkeeper, in order that he might have an opportunity of receiving bribes upon these occasions without being liable to the penalty, has frequently procured one of his own hostlers to be elected bailiff, and has himself carried the mace before him.

The post goes to London Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, morning, at two o'clock; comes in Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, evenings, at eight.

COACHES. A light coach to London from the King's Head, every morning at seven; returns at four in the afternoon.—The Exeter balloon-coach through every morning at three; returns for Exeter at five in the afternoon.—The Sociable coach from Taunton to London, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at three in the morning; returns at twelve the same nights.

WAGGONS

WAGGONS, &c. White and Tanner's waggon from Salisbury to London, comes through here Sunday, Tuesday, and Saturday, nights, at twelve; returns the following Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, mornings, at four. Gibbons's waggon from Salisbury to Oxford, at nine on Tuesday morning; returns on Friday evening. Both these waggons stop at the Ship, in Stockbridge.—Gibbons's waggon from Salisbury to Portsmouth, through here on Sunday at twelve o'clock at night; returns on Thursday.—Leach's Winchester caravan, Monday and Thursday mornings at eleven o'clock, and returns on Tuesday and Friday evening; stops at the White Hart.

At the west end of the town the Andover canal navigation comes up with coal-barges, &c.—The following are the principal inhabitants:

GENTRY.

Beaumont Mrs. Mary
Bucket John, Gent.
Hofton Mr. Thomas
Snook Mr. Thomas
Windover Mrs. Sufannah

CLERGY.

Padden Rev. Newcombe
Sealey Rev. Marmaduke

PHYSIC.

Bloxam —, Surgeon & Man-midwife
Major Tho. Surgeon & Man-midwife

TRADERS, &c.

Andrew Andrews, Bailiff to Charles Wade, Esq.

Atwood Henry-William, Cooper and Postmaster

Baldwin Richard, Carpenter

Beaumont John, Stonemason

Benstead Hugh, Carpenter

Bern Thomas, Peruke-maker

Briant William, Butcher, &c.

Brown Harry, Shoemaker

Cole John, Fellmonger & Breaches-maker

Cole Stephen, Fellmonger

Cooper Thomas, Baker

Corff Rich. Grocer and Linen-draper

Cozier Wm. Merchant and Maltster

Cully Joseph, Shoemaker

Cully John, Shoemaker

Day —, Victualler, (White Hart)

Dixon John, Carpenter

Duff Simon, Shoemaker

Elton William, Plumber and Glazier

Elton John, Thatcher

Evans Tho. Grocer and Linen-draper

Gill William, Shopkeeper

Goddard Richard, Bricklayer

Goddard J. Bricklayer & Parish-clerk

Goater Robert, Shopkeeper

Hamer Thomas, Carrier

Headach John, Sadler

Hordley Ann, Linen-draper and Hofter

Horner Thomas, Tallow-chandler

Horner William, Maltster

Hughes William, Taylor and Grocer

Hulbert John, sen. Fellmonger

Hulbert John, jun. Fellmonger

Hulbert William, Huckster

Hulbert Richard, Smith and Farrier

Hulbert Richard, Schoolmaster

Kimber —, Carpenter

Leach Charles, Cryer

Maton James, Carpenter

New John, Victualler, (Queen's Head)

Noyes John, Farmer

Oliver Edward, Carpenter

Perrin Margaret, Shoemaker

Pickering John, Butcher

Poore John, Grocer and Carpenter

Rawlins Hugh, Blacksmith

Reeks George, Carpenter

Rogers Hester, Shopkeeper

Ruffell Charles, Ship Inn

Salter Charles, Sawyer

Saunders Andrew, Carpenter & Joiner

Saunders Moses, Carpenter

Spencer George, Blacksmith

Steel William, Clerk of the Wharf

Swain Rachel, Baker

Tarrant —, Victualler, (Coach-and-Horses)

Tarrant Robert, Bricklayer

Thomas Thomas, Taylor

Tong Robert, Taylor and Farmer

Tong John, Taylor and Bailiff

Veal Samuel, Excise-officer

Whatton John, Carpenter

Wilkins John, Victualler, (Three Cups)

Wilkinson William, King's Head Inn

Woodger Matthias, Carpenter

Woodley Stephen, Shoemaker

The Wallops are about six miles from Stockbridge, on the right, in the great western road from London to Exeter, and on the river Wallop. This road passes through what is called Middle Wallop, which divides the parishes of Over Wallop and Lower Wallop.

The following is a list of the principal inhabitants of Over Wallop:

TRADERS, &c.

Allen Thomas, Farmer
Barnes John, (F.) Farmer
Blandford-Morgan, Esq.
Brownjohn J. (F.) Farmer
Crowdrey William, Farmer

Garnet Rev. John, *Prebendary of Wilchester, Rector*
Hattat Joseph, *Smith*
Hillary William, (F.) *Carpenter and Parish-clerk*
Hindes John, *Farmer*

Through Middle Wallop passes every day Cook's Salisbury-stage; also the Exeter-stage every day which is called the Spanish mail, as it carried the letters for Spain once a-month; likewise the London mail every day up and down.—Principal inhabitants of Lower Wallop:

GENTLEMAN.

Blunt Walter, Esq. (F.)

CLERGYMAN.

Hutton Rev. Henry, *Vicar*

PHYSIC.

Gutch William, *Surgeon, Apothecary, and Man-midwife*
Trodd Richard, *ditto*

TRADERS, &c.

Barton George, *Shopkeeper*
Brewer John, (F.) *Farmer*
Crowdrey Richard, (F.) *Farmer*
Crowdrey Peter, *Farmer*
Gale Richard, *Farmer*

Graham Rice, *Shopkeeper*
Gregg William, *Lower George Inn*
Kent Stephen, *Farmer*
Marshall Richard, *Farmer, &c.*
Mayton Eliz. *Victualler, (Five Bell)*
Miles William, *Farmer*
Morrison Joseph, *Upper George Inn*
Nash Tho. *Schoolmaster & Parish-clerk*
Noyse Henry, *Farmer and Miller*
Pile John, *Woolstapler*
Saunders James, *Farmer and Smith*
Warwick John, *Baker, Maltster, &c.*
Whicker Jos. *Maltster, Cooper, &c.*

Broughton, three miles on the left of Stockbridge, and near the Wallops, on the borders of Wilts, has a fair the first Thursday in July.—The following are the principal inhabitants:

GENTLEMAN.

Duncombe —, Esq. (F.)

CLERGY.

Gatehouse Rev. Alexander, *Curate*
Thistlethwayte Rev. Alex. *Rector*

TRADERS, &c.

Bailey John, *Schoolmaster*
Barton George, jun. *Shopkeeper*
Cooper William, *Farmer*
Doswell Richard, *Farmer*
Gale William, (F.) *Collar-maker*

Hattat Henry, (F.) *Farmer*
Hattat John, (F.) *Shopkeeper & Farmer*
Hayter —, (F.) *Farmer and Smith*
Keale Christopher, (F.) *Farmer*
Keale William, (F.) *Farmer*
Leach John, *Victualler, (Plough)*
Morgan Thomas Major, *Greyhound Inn*
Robinson Tho. *Carpenter and Wheelwright*
Saunders John, *Farmer*
Self Robert, *Butcher*
Sladen John, *Farmer*

Quarley is north-west of the Wallops. On Quarley-hill are the traces of considerable fortifications.