

Gretty stood up—tearless now, but with sad pale face. She took her mother's hand.

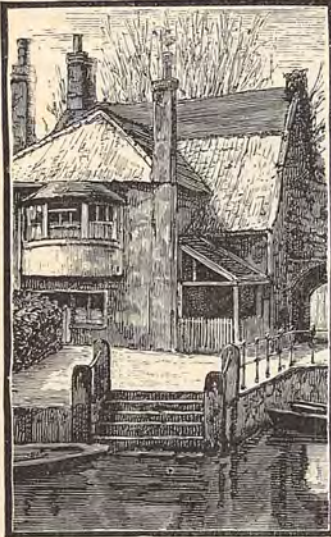
"Give me the right to save your mother's life," pleaded the miser once again.

"Stay!" cried a manly voice, "I have a prior claim." Next moment, with a fond cry, and colour in her cheeks once more, Gretty was pressed to her lover's breast.

That day three weeks, dinkle—dinkle—dinkle—dang

went the village bells. Not pretty bells at all—indeed, I always thought they were pot-metal—but how sweetly they sounded in Gretty's ears! She was going to church to be married. That ends my story, as marriage ends all stories. Yet one word: a few years after this the old miser died, and Rudolf found himself his heir. "As some reparation," said the will, "for evil done and meditated."

SOME CURIOUS PAYMENTS FOR LAND.



IT has been often said that the ancient tenures upon which estates in England were originally granted entailed the performance of certain duties towards the commonwealth which have now fallen into desuetude. In some cases there is undoubtedly much truth in this statement; but it may nevertheless be safely affirmed that the

majority of the ancient "services" entailed nothing beyond an acknowledgment of the submission of the tenant to his feudal superior. From Mr. Carew Hazlett's edition of Thomas Blount's famous list of "Tenures of Land and Customs of Manors," it is easy to make a selection of these services which shall give a very fair notion of the nature of the more usual forms of tenure.

First in importance, though certainly not in number, are the tenures by military service—and amongst them one of the commonest is the duty of furnishing armed knights, men and horses, for service in England, or for the innumerable military demonstrations on the Welsh marches. Thus we find that a tenement in Legre, in Essex, was held by the "serjeantry of going in the army to Wales with our lord the king, with one horse, a sack, and a skewer;" but what the latter curious provision was for does not appear. The manor of Horlham was held by the "serjeantry of finding in the Castle of Norwich one balistar, in time of war, for forty days, at his [the tenant's] own proper costs;" a balistar, it may be mentioned, was the worker of the instrument known as the balista, which closely resembled the catapult, and was employed for a similar purpose. It was the duty of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, to find a balista in

time of war, for fifteen days, in service for his lands at Banningham, in Norfolk; while certain lands in Carleton, in the county of Nottingham, were held in the reign of Henry IV. "by the service of one catapult by the year for all services." So that both these instruments, so frequently employed by the ancient Romans, were still in common use in some form down to a comparatively late period in this country.

The service of providing weapons was a very common one, though these hardly seem to have been furnished in such numbers as to have rendered them practically available for the equipment of an army. Arrows appear to be of most frequent occurrence amongst these old tenure services. But these were not always intended for military purposes. Thus, Auri and Hole, in Devon, were held by Walter Aungerin by serjeantry, "that whensoever our lord the king should hunt in the forest of Exmore, he should find for him two barbed arrows;" and certain lands in Drascombe, in Devon, were held by the service of providing the king with a bow and three barbed arrows "whensoever he should hunt in the forest of Dartmoor."

Certain lands in Horwood, Lancashire, again, were held in socage by rendering one iron arrow to be paid yearly, which seems to be rather a mere acknowledgment than a "valuable consideration." On the other hand, Ralph le Fletcher held lands in Bradeley, Lincoln, by the service of paying yearly to the king twenty fletched arrows at the exchequer; and another twenty fletched (*i.e.*, feathered) arrows were yearly paid by this Ralph for his lands in Lincoln; while the manor of Grendon, in Buckingham, was held by the service or "petty serjeantry of furnishing the lord of the honour with one bow of ebony and two arrows yearly."

Gloves of various kinds were frequently presented in service for lands. Thus, two farms at Carlcoats, in Yorkshire, paid "the one a right-hand, and the other a left-hand glove yearly;" and some lands in Elmesale, in the same county, were held of the king "by the service of paying at the Castle of Pontefract one pair of gloves furred with fox-skin, or eightpence, yearly;" while for the manor of Elston, in Nottingham, were rendered two pairs of gloves, together with a pound of cummin-seed, and a steel needle. Needles are met with several times, but one instance must here suffice—where "Roger, some time tailor to our lord the

king" held lands in Hallingbury, Essex, by paying at the king's exchequer "one silver needle yearly."

Still more curious is the service for certain lands in Rode, Northampton, which consisted in finding "one horse of the price of five shillings, and one sack of the price of fourpence halfpenny, with *one small pin*, for forty days." Probably this "small pin" was similar to the skewer noticed above, and was used to fasten, or attach, the sack, which may have been employed to carry fodder for the horse. That the horses were tolerably cared for, even in those days, seems to be proved by the fact that the manor of Cherburgh, in Dorset, was held "by the service of one horse-comb, price fourpence, to be paid yearly," and that certain lands in the hundred of Loseberg, in the same county, were held "of our lord the king, by the serjeantry of finding a certain horse-comb, or curry-comb," &c.

Amongst other miscellaneous services by which lands were held may be mentioned certain instances of hose. Thus, Cottington, in Nottingham, was held by the service of presenting to the king a pair of scarlet hose yearly; Eldresfield, in Worcester, was held by rendering to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, hose of scarlet on his birthday; and Henley, in Warwick, was held by Edmund, Lord Stafford, by the service of three shillings, or a pair of scarlet hose.

Pushill, in Oxfordshire, was held by paying yearly to the king a table-cloth of three shillings' price. For lands in King's-Brome, in Warwick, Richard de Sandford rendered yearly a pair of tongs. The manor of Grenock, in Sussex, was held by Matthew de Hastings by the service of finding an oar for the king's use when he should pass over the sea to the haven of Hastings. The owners of Ashwell, in Essex, in the time of Henry II., held their lands by the service of finding a broche, or spit of maple, to roast the king's meat on the day of his coronation; while Nicolas la More rendered at the exchequer two knives—one good, and the other a very bad one—the service due to the king for his lands of More, in Shropshire, being two knives (or whittles), "whereof one ought to be of that value or goodness that at the first stroke it would cut asunder, in the middle, a hazel-rod of a year's growth."

A very different class of tenure services is met with in great numbers having reference to the chase. Ardley, in Essex, was held by the serjeantry of keeping a spar-hawk. Barnes, in Surrey, formerly paid a sparrow-hawk, or, in lieu thereof, two shillings, to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Barton, in Nottingham, was held of King John by the service of yielding to the king yearly one soar-hawk. In the time of Edward I., John de Audeley rendered a mewed sparrow-hawk for the manor of Echemendon, in Shropshire. Elkesley, in Nottingham; Esperett, in Somerset; and Huntlesham, in Suffolk, were all held by similar service; while the lands of Hertrug, in Berkshire, were held by the "serjeantry of mewing and keeping one goshawk for the lord the king."

For lands in Wingfield, Suffolk, were paid "to our lord the king, two white doves yearly;" and similar payments are elsewhere met with. Lands

at Aslabie, in Yorkshire, were held by the service of teaching one hare-dog belonging to the king; while Henry II. "enfeoffed one Boscher, his servant, with the manor of Bericote, in the county of Warwick, by the service of keeping a white young brach, with red ears, to be delivered to the king at the year's end, and then to receive another to breed up, with half a quarter of bran."

Boyton, in Essex, was held by the serjeantry of keeping for the king five wolf-dogs. Middleton Lillebon, in Wilts, was held by a nearly similar service; and Little Useworth, in Durham, was held "by the service of finding for the aforesaid bishop [Hatfield, 1361] one man with a greyhound in his great chase, if summoned;" while the city of Norwich, besides other payments, was bound to furnish "a bear, and six dogs for the bear;" so that even in the time of King Edward the Confessor bear-baiting appears to have been a recognised pastime amongst our ancestors.

The term "pepper-corn rent" is a familiar one to us all, and instances of such a rent having been fixed are neither few nor far between. Thus, Bermeton, in Durham, was held by the service of three grains of pepper yearly; Finchley, in Middlesex, by the annual rent of a pound of pepper; Highgate, in Denbigh, was leased for a term of 500 years at the annual rent of one pepper-corn; and for a fortieth part of one knight's fee in the manor of Leyham, in Suffolk, Philippa Ross rendered "one capon and the third part of one capon, and the third part of one pound of pepper." A similar custom was that of Pokerley, in Durham, which lands were held "by one clove on St. Cuthbert's day, in September, for all other services."

All the foregoing examples of services may be regarded as, to some extent, reasonable, though inadequate as payment for the lands held; but many of the services rendered appear to be purely arbitrary and capricious, as when a farm at Brook-house, in Yorkshire, was held by the payment of a "snowball at Midsummer, and a red rose at Christmas."

Roses often appear in these services. Lands in Crendon, in Buckinghamshire, were held by the "service of one chaplet of roses at Christmas." For the manor of Fulmer, in the same county, Sir Marmaduke Darel rendered one red rose yearly; as did Ralph de Belvoir for lands in Mickelham, Surrey; and Sir William Sandes for the manor of Stene and Hinton, in Northampton.

Lastly, certain lands at Haine, in Surrey, "were held of the men of Kingston upon condition of rendering to the said men three clove gilli-flowers at the king's coronation;" and perhaps the single clove referred to above as if it were a spice, should rather be regarded as a similar flower.

A vast number of services consisted of articles of food and domestic utensils; and a moment may be devoted to a cursory examination of some of these. Amongst them the capon is perhaps most commonly met with. Lands in Bosham, in Sussex, were held by "the service of carrying two white capons to our lord the king, as often as he should pass by the gate" of the holder of the tenement; and a precisely similar

custom was in force as regards the lands of Bradbrugge, in Sussex; while certain lands at Midlovent, in the same county, made a like payment yearly.

The most practical service which has as yet come under notice is, however, that done for the manor of Chettington, in Shropshire, for which Roger Corbet was bound to find "one footman in the time of war, in the king's army in Wales, with one bow and three arrows, and one pale, and carrying with him one bacon or salted hog, and when he comes to the army, delivering to the king's marshal a moiety of the bacon; and thence the marshal is to deliver to him daily some of that moiety for his dinner so long as he stays in the army, and he is to follow the army so long as the half of that bacon shall last"—from which it may be judged that the diet of the unfortunate "footman" was not of the most sumptuous or plentiful character. Another practical service was that of paying for the bailiwick of Exmore, in Somerset, "fourteen little heifers and a young

bull;" and yet another was that of rendering two oxen yearly for the manor of Gargawall, in Cornwall. Honey was a not uncommon payment, a gallon of honey having been rendered to the king for lands at the well-known Newington Butts, in Surrey; and ale is frequently met with, as where half a hide of land at Apse, in the same county, was held by the "service of distributing and giving one cask of ale on the day of All Saints, for the soul of our lord the king and his ancestors."

Similar examples might be multiplied indefinitely, but enough has been said to prove that, though the great Crown fiefs were undoubtedly held by the tenure of military service, yet, as time went on, lands of greater or less extent were granted upon rents which can only be regarded as nominal, and which are frequently so trifling, as in the case of roses and pepper-corns, that they might be looked upon as practical jokes were they not of such common occurrence.

SAVOURY DISHES: HOW TO IMPROVE THEM.



NEGLECT of appearances is a very common failing even in many well-to-do households, especially as regards edibles generally; though, to take for instance so homely and unattractive a dish as boiled beef or mutton, how much more appetising it becomes

when some of the vegetables usually served with it are cut into various shapes with fancy cutters, and placed round the meat! These cutters may be bought for very little in most large towns, at shops that deal in novelties, and may be had to imitate all kinds of fruit, besides stars, leaves, curls, and so on. They will be found equally handy for use in many other ways, as I will endeavour to point out. As regards the appearance of fish, few things blend more harmoniously than a delicately-boiled white fish sprinkled with lobster coral, surrounded by slices of lemon and sprigs of fennel or parsley.

However, it is to cold savouries that the greater share of attention must be given, for it is in the preparation of dainty dishes for festive occasions that one feels most inclined to give extra time and trouble to their ornamentation. Here, again, parsley and fennel—most homely, yet most graceful and beautiful of garnitures—will render good service. Indeed, quite artistic results may be obtained if lemon, hard eggs, butter, raw potatoes, carrots, and turnips, with some *boiled* beetroot, are handy, as well as *aspic jelly*, if possible, as it is difficult to dispense with it sometimes. It must be borne in mind that there are two kinds of "savoury jelly," one which is merely the gravy in which something has been cooked—say veal, chicken, or rabbit for filling a mould, to be served as *moulded meat*; the said gravy, being reduced and mixed with dissolved gelatine, is then simply strained through

a sieve or cloth, and poured into the mould with the meat. In this case it is only moderately clear, but "aspic jelly" is the same thing put through a jelly-bag and cleared with eggs, just as sweet jelly is; and this trouble *must* be taken when the jelly is required to form a glistening heap round a glazed fowl, and many other similar things. But as often not more than a pint is needed, and as that quantity may be bought from the grocer for fifteenpence or eighteenpence, it is cheaper to buy than to make it.

The same thing may be said of glaze—an ounce of which, costing about threepence, will ornament several dishes, such as a tongue and a couple of fowls, or their equal. The glaze should be cut up into a cup or jar, and a table-spoonful of water added. It should then be set into a saucepan of boiling water, and allowed to melt gradually until quite liquid; and after it is brushed over the meat, it must be left to set before any other decoration, such as butter, is dotted about it, as the warm glaze would run into, and spoil the appearance of, the butter.

With reference to the latter, there are two ways of using it for decorative purposes. One is to melt it, and pour it into a small cone made of writing-paper, which should be held in the left hand, the thumb and finger of the right hand regulating the stream of butter through the small hole in the point of the cone. In this way many devices may be made, or mottoes suited to the occasion written upon the article under treatment. Some one with a talent for drawing, or who writes a good bold hand, will best succeed in this task. Lard may be used instead of butter in this case, but not in the following form of decoration, as it would be too soft. Rub with a wooden spoon through a coarse hair sieve (a wire one would turn the butter green) some *firm* butter, cut into slices; reverse the sieve, and you will find the butter in little curly tufts;