

the Collection of Mr. Douglas and the *Nenia Britannica*; and that the former "seems better adapted for drinking, and exactly resembles the drinking-cups in use in many parts of Germany;" ingeniously adding, that "as some of the most ancient cups were made of the horns of animals, the conical figure in vessels destined to that use might remain long after other materials had been substituted in the stead of horn."

In Mr. Goodall's Collection is a bottle, with the portrait and arms of King Edward IV.; several small models of fire-arms, ancient match-locks, &c.: a sword reputed to have belonged to Oliver Cromwell, who left it at Dinton when (as is traditionally said) he slept here, whilst the King was besieged in Oxford. Here is also a curious highly-finished steel-key, with a crown and cypher at the bow; by some said to have been a pass-key, and by others conjectured to have been worn as a personal ornament by one of the Lords of the Bed-Chamber, or other official attendant of the King, at that period at which the more precious metals had generally disappeared, when loyalists contributed their money to relieve the necessities of their Sovereign, the Universities devoted their plate to maintain their ecclesiastical establishment, and the Churches gave up their bells, to be converted into weapons of warfare, and protract a sanguinary conflict between those who were, on both sides, full of fury and resentment bordering upon frenzy.¹ Here also may still be seen one of those shoes (its fellow being preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford) worn by John Bigg, the Dinton Hermit; an old man who, having officiated as a clerk or secretary to Simon Mayne, the regicide, is described as a native of Dinton, and lived during many years, in the latter part of his life, in a hut or cave, of which the site is still pointed out, south-west of the Hall (though he is likewise reported to have retreated, during part of the Summer months, to the woods near Kimble); and the identical shoe has been engraven and published, as worn by Bigg, who has over his shoulders a loose cloak or coat, "all o'er coarsely patched with different coloured pieces."² Mr. Grubb of Horsenden, a neighbouring parish, told Hearne, the Antiquarian, that he well remembered the Hermit; and Sir Thomas Lee of Hartwell, informed him that, when a little boy, he had often been frightened by him. In a letter from Hearne, dated Oxon, 12 Feb. 1712-13, addressed to Browne Willis, is the following account:

"The shoe is vastly large, made up of about a thousand pieces of leather. It belonged to John Bigg, who was clerk to Judge Mayne, one of the Judges who gave sentence upon King Cha. I. He lived in a cave under ground, had been a man of tolerable wealth, was looked upon as a pretty good scholar, and of no contemptible parts. Upon the Restoration, he grew melancholy, betook himself to a recluse life, made all his other cloaths in the same manner as the shoe, lived by begging, but never asked for any thing but leather, which he would immediately nail to his cloaths. He kept three bottles hanging at his girdle, one for strong beer, another for small beer, and the third for milk, which liquors used to be given, and sometimes brought to him, as was his other sustenance, notwithstanding he never asked for them."—"This shoe (adds Hearne) often put me in mind of the Roman Campagi, or military shoes of the inferior soldiers, which were made much in the same manner, excepting that the upper parts were uncovered, like the more ancient shoes, called *Crepide*."

A portrait of Bigg was etched³ from a picture in the possession of the late Sir Scrope Bernard Morland, Bart. and represents the Hermit as a tall, robust, rather handsome man, with an open

contents of different and differently-shaped barrows in Dorsetshire and the western parts of England, it is evident that the aboriginal inhabitants must have had intercourse with other more polished nations, before the Romans made their appearance in this island, as has been likewise corroborated in the discoveries made near Brill and Crendon, in this county, of which see the account in Vol. i. of this work, p. 212, et seq.

¹ It is evident, for whatever purpose intended, that it never could have been *actually used as a key*, whilst the delicacy and elegance of its form and decorations seem to have been, under the circumstances of those times, not improbably imagined a fit substitute for a more expensive and costly *bauble*, as Oliver, in the day of his power, had the impudence to designate the Speaker's mace—regarded, both before and since, with a sort of magic reverence, as the emblem of monarchical and judicial authority. ² See Lysons's *Magn. Brit.* vol. i. p. 351. ³ Published by Richardson in 1787.

countenance, destitute of moroseness, severity, or vulgarity. He has on a sort of hood, or square horned cap, of apparently the same patched materials, as a loose short cloak, over his lower garments, which consist of a close dress, with a girdle or belt, on which are suspended two leather bottles, his right hand grasping a third, the left resting on a short three-pronged fork. He has trowsers or pantaloons not quite meeting his shoes, which latter have not been very accurately drawn in the plate. The inscription below the figure is chiefly copied from Hearne's letter to Willis, with some few dates and other particulars supplied from the Parish Register, before cited.

When the noted Simon Mayne resided here, it is said that he eluded the Royalists by a singular contrivance, which is, or was very lately, to be seen. He made a secret retreat or hiding-place at the top of the Mansion, under the gables of the roof, to which he ascended by a passage or tunnel lined with cloth: three of the lower steps of an ordinary stair-case were capable of being lifted up, and thereby formed an entrance to a trough lined with cloth, through which Mayne could crawl up, and thus approach his retreat.¹

UPTON

hamlet is situated on the eastern side of the parish of Dinton, was separately surveyed, and is described in Domesday-Book as part of the possessions of William Peverell and of Milo Crispin. William Peverell held three hides and an half, which were in the hands of Robert, his sub-fendatory. There was land for five ploughs. In the demesne were two: and eight villeins, with three bordars, had three ploughs. There were three servants, and pasture for five teams. It was then, and had always been, estimated at sixty shillings. Alwine, a tenant of Queen Edith, held this Manor, and might sell it.² It does not seem to be satisfactorily agreed in regard to the sub-fendal tenant, called Robert: he has been conjectured Robert de Romenel, by others Robert Earl of Morton, and by many Robert D'Oily.

Upton was certainly divided into two parts, Nether Upton and Upper Upton. One apportioned to Peverell, the other to Milo Crispin. One of these, at a very early date, undoubtedly became part of the honour of Walingford; and the evidence seems to predominate in favour of the opinion that this was that part of the hamlet which had at first belonged to Peverell.

In 1197 (9 Ric. I.) a fine was passed between Sampson de la Pomeroy and Christiana his wife, and William de Upton, of lands in Uppetton, &c. whereby it was agreed that Sampson and Christiana release and remit to William de Upton, and his heirs, all that service of six shillings, payable when a scutage of twenty shillings was levied upon the whole realm. And William de Upton covenants with Sampson³ to find and supply in his service in the wars, and for the defence of the Castle of Walingford, two horses, a shield and lance, according to covenants; and Sampson and his heirs agree to provide for the said William and his heirs sufficient supply of arms and other things, in order to the custody and defence aforesaid, for which, &c. William gave to Sampson a palfrey.

¹ From an account of the Rev. Wm. Goodall. See also Return, 1826.

² In Vpetone ten' Robt' de Willo. iii hid 7 dim' Tra. ē. v. car'. In dñio sunt ii. 7 viii, uilli cū. iii. bord hnt. iii. car'. Ibi. iii. serui. 7 pū. v. car'. Val 7 ualuit sep. lx. sol. Hoc tñ tenuit Aluain' hō Eddid. regine. 7 uende' pot'. [Lib. Censual.]

³ Inter Sampson de la Poimā et Christianam ux' ejus P. et Willm de Upton T. terr. in Uppetton &c. scilicet quod p'deus Sampson et Christiana remiserunt p'nominato Willo et heredibus suis totum p'dēm servicium usq; ad vj solidos quando scutagium de xx² positum fuerit per totum Regnum. Et p'deus Wills recognovit p'dco Samsoni invenire in servicio suo scilicet in exercitibus et Wardis Castelli de Walingford duos equos et scutum et lanceum secundum tenementum p'dco et ipse Samson et heredes sui invenient ipsi Willo et heredibus suis supplies in custodia rōnabili et in armis et aliis rebus &c. Et p. hoc &c idem Wills dedit p'nominato Samsoni Palefrid liard et un nism sorum. [Rot. Fin. 9 Ric. I.]