

VOL. CLVIII.

1583.

Feb. ?

84. Relation by Sir Robert Stapleton of a scene of violent recrimination between the Archbishop of York and Mr. Sysson in an orchard at Bishopsthorpe. Stapleton interferes; personal contest between him and Sysson. Denies that this strife was feigned in order to draw on a composition.

Feb. ?

85. Petition of John Wickerson to Walsyngham. Has been prisoner in the Marshalsea two years, by his commitment, for his rash contract of matrimony with Mistress Frances [Walsyngham?], which to relinquish would be a perpetual scruple and worm in conscience, and hazard of body and soul. Solicits his consent and good will to the performance of their said contract, otherwise they must live in adultery, and be a scornful spectacle and a mocking stock to the world. Indorsed, "*Desires to bee enlarged after his long imprisonment, and that I would not any longer continue my dislike of his contract wth Mrs. Fraunces.*" [*Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Walsyngham, was married to Sir Philip Sidney in March, 1583.*]

Feb. ?

Articles to be considered of by the Commissioners for repair of Dover Haven. Plans of Fard. Poyntz. [*See Vol. xlv. p. 35.*]

1583.

VOL. CLIX. MARCH, 1583.

March 1.
Ludlow Castle.

1. Sir Henry Sydney to Sir Francis Walsyngham. Most willingly agrees with him in the proposed marriage of their children, and had hoped by his means to have obtained some small suit of Her Majesty, for he might have received a great sum of money for the goodwill of his son's marriage. The virtues of his son (Sir Philip) no doubt led to the choice of him for Walsyngham's daughter (Mistress Frances) who haply may have refused far richer matches. As the Queen will not be moved to reward him, he therefore will detail all his services in the two high offices he has held, of Lord Deputy in Ireland and Lord President of Wales. Thrice he has been Lord Deputy, and minutely details the whole history of Ireland from 1566 to 1578; perhaps the most vivid picture of that portion of Irish history extant. He returns to Court and goes to his great and high office in Wales, a happy place of government; for a better people to govern or better subjects, Europe holdeth not. Various other employments of high character, to his great charges, in which he neither won nor saved. He has not so much ground as will feed a mutton. His wife a lady in Court. When he left her to go to Newhaven she was a full fair lady, in his eyes the fairest. When he returned he found her as foul a lady as the small pox could make her, which she did take by continually nursing Her Majesty in that sickness, so as now she liveth solitarily, "*sicut Nicticorax in domicilio suo.*" He, Sydney, at 10 years of age was Henchman to Henry VIII., and was put to that sweet Prince his son, Prince