

September. The trade of the town has somewhat improved since the Bain has been made navigable from Horncastle to the Witham. Tattershall is generally considered the *Dorobrevis* of the Romans, who used it as a summer military station: traces of two encampments of that warlike people being still visible at a short distance from the town, in a place called Tattershall Park. Several Roman coins have also been found here. Soon after the Norman conquest, the manor of Tattershall, together with Tattershall Thorpe, and several other estates, was given by King William to Eudo and Pinco, two Norman nobles, who, though sworn brothers in war, were not otherwise related. On the division of the estates between these chieftains this manor became the property of Eudo, who fixed his residence here. Upon his death his estates descended to his son, Hugh Fitz Eudo, who, in the year 1139, founded an abbey for Cistercian monks at the neighbouring village of Kirkstead. Robert Eudo, in 1201, by means of a present of a well-trained goshawk, obtained from Richard II. a grant to hold a weekly market here; and his son Robert obtained from Henry III. a license to build a castle here, together with a grant of free-warren in all his demesne lands. On the death of the seventh Robert Eudo, Tattershall became the portion of his sister Joan, who married Sir Robert Dribey, with whose daughter it passed to Sir William Bernack, whose daughter Maud carried it in marriage to Sir Ralph, afterwards Lord Cromwell, who died in 1398, leaving his son Ralph heir to his possessions, who, dying in 1416, was succeeded by a son of the same name. In 1443, the last was, by Henry VI., appointed treasurer of the exchequer. After his death, in 1487, Henry VII. granted the manor to his mother, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, and in the following year entailed it on the Duke of Richmond. The duke dying without issue, Henry VIII., in 1520, granted it to Charles, Duke of Suffolk. On the death of the two infant sons of the duke, who survived their father only a few months, this manor again came into the possession of the king; and in 1551, Edward VI. granted the castle and manor, in fee, to Edward Lord Clinton and Saye, afterwards Earl of Lincoln. The earl died in 1584, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who died in 1616, when his son Thomas became possessed of the manor. Theophilus, son of Henry, was the next lord, but he dying in 1667, the next possessor was Edward, his grandson, who died in 1692; in him terminated the male line of Clinton. Upon his death, without issue, the Tattershall estate became the property of his cousin Bridget, who married Hugh Fortescue, Esq., by whom she had a son Hugh, who was created Baron Fortescue and Earl Clinton. Upon his death in 1751, his half brother, Matthew, succeeded him; but dying in 1785, the estate descended to his eldest son, Hugh, the first Earl Fortescue, who died in 1841, aged 88 years, and was succeeded by his son Hugh, the late Earl Fortescue, Viscount Ebrington, &c., who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1839 to 1841. His son, the present Earl Fortescue, is lord of the manor; his principal seats are Castle Hill, Devonshire, and Ebrington, Gloucestershire.

TATTERSHALL CASTLE.—A little to the S.W. of the town stand the remains of Tattershall Castle, which was erected about the year 1440, by the Lord Treasurer Cromwell, whose annual expenditure is stated to have been £5000, his household comprising 100 persons; and when he rode to London he had in his suite generally 120 horsemen. He is said to have expended 4000 marks in building the towers of this castle, which was surrounded by two fosses, and a great part of the inner one, faced with brick, still remains. It was an extensive and formidable fortress, but was dilapidated in the wars between Charles I. and his parliament. The part now remaining is one of the finest and most perfect specimens of ancient brickwork in the kingdom, being a rectangular tower, 100 feet high, divided into four stories, and flanked by four octagonal turrets. It is raised on ponderous arches, forming spacious vaults, which extend through the angles of the building into the bases of the turrets. The walls are of great thickness; and the windows are of the pointed order, well proportioned, and containing tracery. In the south-east turret is a staircase of 181 steps, ascending to the top of the fourth story, which was covered by a grand platform, or flat roof, which, together with the several floors, is entirely destroyed, though the massive battlements, with the strong arched parapets, are in good preservation. Three of the turrets were till recently terminated by cones, covered with lead, but the cone of the fourth turret has long been gone. On the ground floor is an elegant carved stone chimney piece embattled and ornamented alternately with arms and treasury purses, with the motto “*nay je droit.*” On the moor, about four miles north of Tattershall, stand the ruins of a lofty tower, which was built by the lord treasurer, as an appendage to his castle, as noticed at page 334. Between the castle and the church is a small inhabited brick building, which appears to be coeval with the castle.

The Church (Holy Trinity) is a beautiful stone structure; it was made collegiate by a license obtained from Henry VI., in the 17th year of his reign, by which the patrons were empowered to convert it into a college, to consist of seven chaplains, one of whom to be custos or master, six secular clerks, and six choristers. The license further authorised them to erect a perpetual almshouse on their own ground, for thirteen poor persons of both sexes, with mansion houses and buildings for the master, chaplains, clerks, choristers, and their servants, and to assign the same to the said master and chaplains, who were to be a body corporate. In pursuance of this license, the Lord Treasurer Cromwell, who was one of the patrons of the church, began to convert it into a college, but he died before it was finished. It was afterwards completed, nearly as it now remains, and the other buildings mentioned in the license were also erected. This college received several benefactions, and its possessions progressively increased to a considerable magnitude, being valued in the 26th of Henry VIII. at £348. 5s. 11d. per annum. In the 36th of the same reign, the whole, except a reservation for the support of the almshouse, was granted to Charles, Duke of Suffolk, who at that time was possessor of the castle and manor. The Church stands about 80 yards east of the castle, near the outer fosse, and is a beautiful cruciform structure, consisting of a nave, with aisles, a transept, a chancel, a south porch, and square tower containing a clock and five bells. Over the great western window, is a richly ornamented niche, in which a statue formerly stood.