

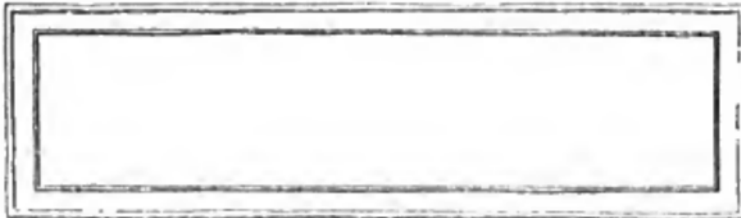


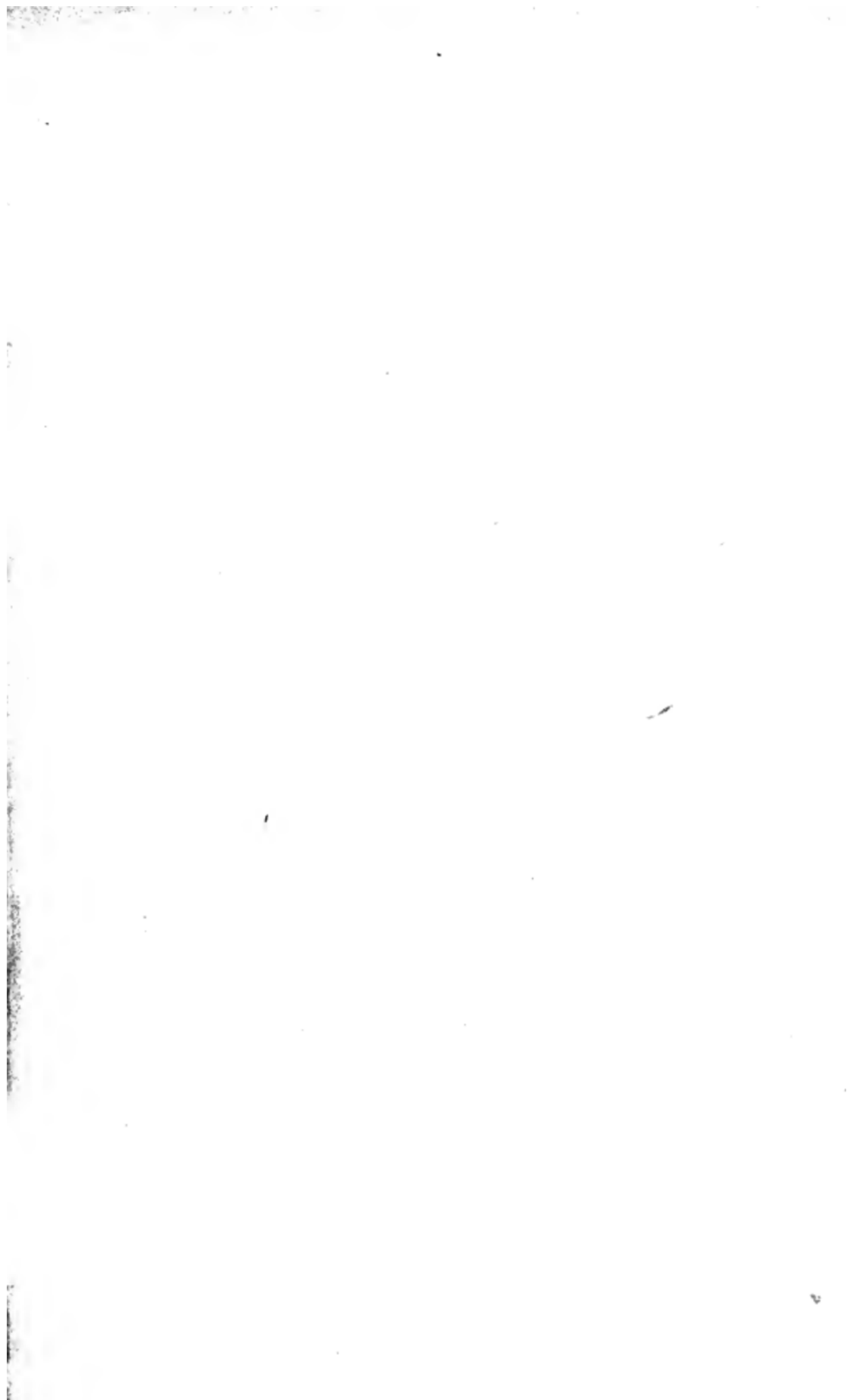
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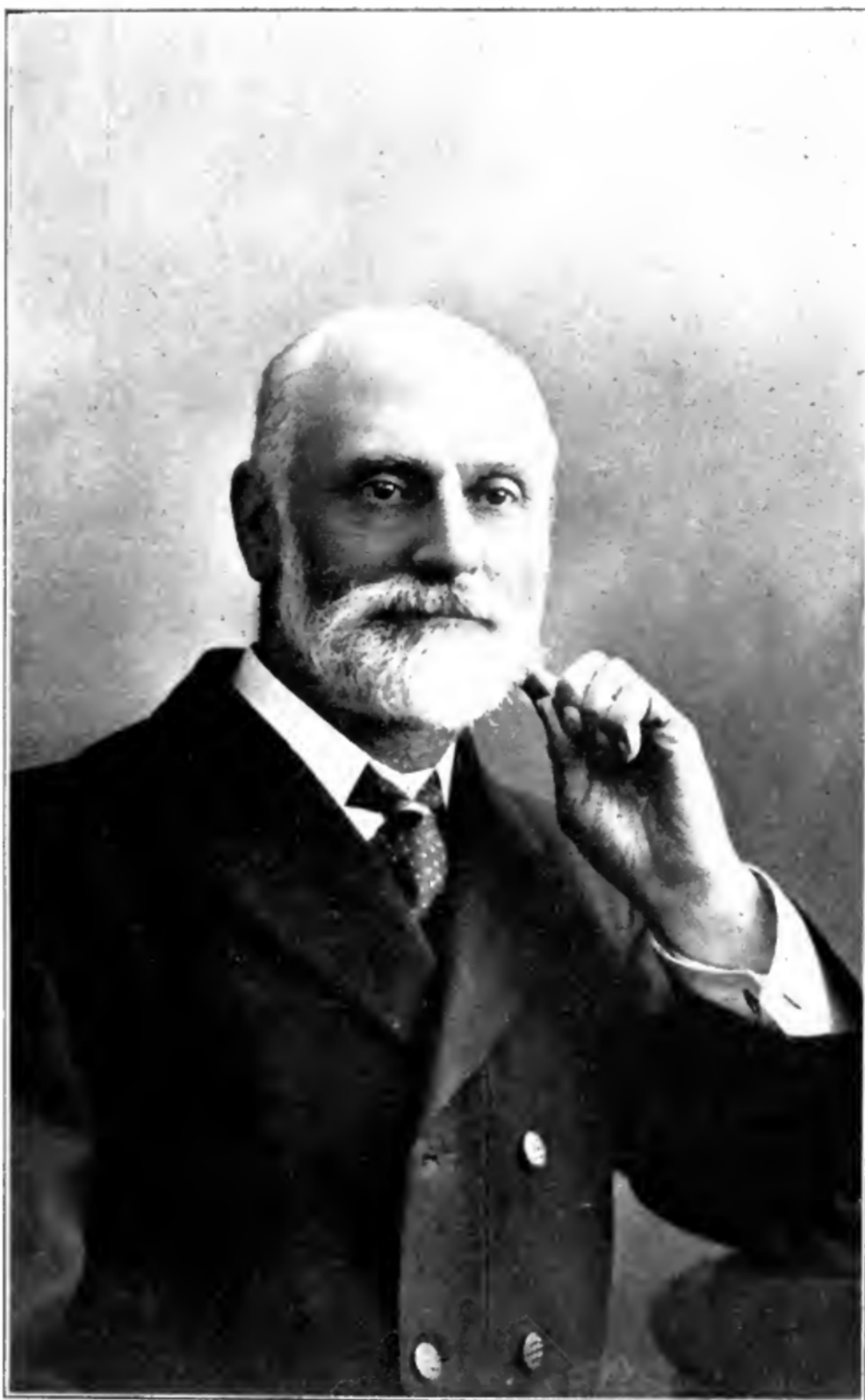
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Yours faithfully,

J. T. BIGGS.

LEICESTER:
SANITATION VERSUS VACCINATION.



LEICESTER :
SANITATION versus **VACCINATION.**

ITS VITAL STATISTICS COMPARED
WITH THOSE OF OTHER TOWNS,
THE ARMY, NAVY, JAPAN, AND
ENGLAND AND WALES.

BY

J. T. BIGGS, J. P.

Member of the Leicester Town Council,
and of its Sanitary Committee, for over
Twenty-Two Years.

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TO VNU
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DEDICATED

to my honoured friends,

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM TEBB,

with all their Co-workers for emancipation
from the yoke of legal and other disabilities,
imposed or caused by the Vaccination Laws :

and,

to all who earnestly endeavour to promote
and secure Liberty and Justice for Mankind.

416437

FOR the Historical part of this work, I have availed myself of Mrs. Fielding Johnson's "Glimpses of Ancient Leicester"; Mr. James Thompson's "History of Leicester"; Mr. W. Napier Reeve's "Chronicles of the Castle and Earls of Leicester"; and Mr. William Kelly's "Royal Progresses." I am also indebted to Mrs. Fielding Johnson for the use of several blocks for the illustrations, for which I cordially thank her. For valuable aid freely rendered in other parts of the work, I must not omit to mention the late Mr. Jabez Hunns; and I tender to Mr. J. P. Swan and all others my grateful acknowledgments and thanks.

J. T. BIGGS.

Leicester, 1912.

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INTRODUCTORY.

As one who took a humble part—as a witness for Leicester—in the proceedings before the Royal Commission on Vaccination (1889-1896), I have long cherished the desire to continue to a later date the more important, if not the whole, of the Tables and Diagrams of Vital Statistics which I had the honour to submit to that Commission. The task—a labour of love—having for its object the manumission of mankind from a hateful medical thralldom, has occupied the spare moments of many years of a busy life.

Often have I wished that this work, for its own sake and the great issues involved, had been in more competent and less occupied hands, but the results of my investigations as to the effects of vaccination are given with the fervent hope that, at least, they may promote inquiry, induce impartial consideration, and elucidate the truth on so important a question affecting the public health.

Leicester has taken a foremost part in many stirring historical events, but in none has its activity been more potent (as I believe for good) than in the much-debated and vexed question of vaccination. Since that operation was enforced

by penal statute, scarcely any writer on the subject has omitted to make some reference to the opposition Leicester has uniformly manifested to its compulsory infliction on an unwilling people. Unquestionably this antagonism has materially enhanced the success of the anti-vaccination movement.

Respecting Leicester, much ignorance prevails which it is desirable to enlighten. Not so long ago a gentleman, travelling from London, inquired of a friend what town they were approaching. "Leicester," was the reply. "Oh!" ejaculated the inquirer, "that is the place where they always have the small-pox!" It was impossible to listen silently to such an untruthful libel, so I at once informed my fellow-travellers that Leicester not only has less small-pox than any other town of a similar character, but also very little vaccination.

That incident, however, serves to illustrate the feeling towards, and even the belief of many people, respecting Leicester. Indeed, to such an extent has prejudice become fixed, especially in the official mind, against the Borough, as the home of the "anti," that our local authorities have at times experienced difficulty in negotiating loans required for public works that are necessary for the development of a bright, healthy, and progressive community, such as Leicester is to-day; indeed, I might add, as Leicester has been ever since its rejection of the Jennerian dogma, and the substitution of personal and municipal cleanliness. This doctrine of cleanliness has now become part and parcel of its every-day life.

Owing to these circumstances, it has been suggested that a brief historical sketch might not be inappropriate, although not strictly homogeneous with this work.

Having always taken considerable and active interest in the welfare and reputation of my native town, it has been a congenial task to accede to that proposition. A few chapters are, therefore, devoted to this purpose, in the hope that any wrong impressions which have been formed respecting Leicester may be removed.

In this I am greatly encouraged, not only by the greater, the more sympathetic and intelligent interest, now universally evinced in all matters relating to the health and happiness of the community, but, more particularly, by the indisputable and remarkable success in saving human lives which has signalised the "Leicester Method" of sanitation and isolation in coping with small-pox, as opposed to the *effete nostrum* of vaccination. This auspicious experiment, in a manufacturing town, on so large a scale as to embrace a population of nearly a quarter of a million persons, ought to convert even the most pronounced devotee of the vaccine dogma. If it does not, then "neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." Our motto for fighting all zymotic diseases is that so cleverly adapted by Lord Beaconsfield from the adage of the ancient sage—"Sanitas sanitatum, omnia sanitas!"





1. The Castle "Mount" or "Mound." (Believed to be the work of the British tribe, Coritani.)
2. The "Jewry Wall." (Fragment of Roman masonry.)



1. The "Milliare" or Roman Milestone. (Now in the Museum.)
2. The "Roman Pavement," (In situ as laid over 1,500 years ago.)

PART I.

HISTORICAL PREFACE.

LEICESTER, PAST AND PRESENT.

CHAPTER I.

BRITISH PERIOD, B.C. 844—A.D. 52.

THE County-Borough—in ancient times the City—of Leicester is one of the oldest centres of civilised life in Great Britain. The name is derived from the Celtic “Caer,” and not, as some suppose, from the Roman “Castrum.” According to Geoffrey, of Monmouth, it was founded by King Lear (844 B.C.) centuries before London was even thought of, and also had priority of nearly a century over the Eternal City, Rome (750 B.C.).

However this may be, the original colony was undoubtedly very remote, and the site on the banks of the River Leir was indubitably selected as favourable for a settlement by the ancient Britons.

As “Cair-lerion,” Leicester appears in the list of thirty-three British cities, named in the work

of Nennius, which is assigned to the year 796 B.C. The ancient name is perpetuated by a village called Leire, not far from where the river—now the Soar—takes its rise.

Within the precincts of Leicester Castle, the Castle “Mount” or “Mound,” now very much reduced in height, is probably the oldest artificial work in the neighbourhood constructed by the native inhabitants, the Coritani. The “Mount” is supposed to be the original Celtic *Caer*, or Castle, from which the name *Kaer-leir*, *Caer-lerion*, *Caer-Legria*, *Legra-ceastre*, or Leicester, is derived.

The antiquity of Leicester is, therefore, beyond question, and, according to historians, not only King Lear and his youngest daughter, afterwards Queen Cordeilla, but also Kings Morvidus, Gorbonian, Arthgallo, Elidure, and many other of the pristine British Kings and Queens, either visited, were crowned, reigned, held their Courts, or were buried in this ancient City.

CHAPTER II.

ROMAN PERIOD, A.D. 52-448.

WITH the Roman conquest and occupation of this country, from 52 to 448, Leicester became a Roman stipendiary town, called Ratae, and one of the largest military stations in Britain. The Roman city is supposed to have been founded either by Ostorius Scapula, in the middle of the first century, or later by Julius Agricola, when on his way to the North.

It was of such importance that a Mint was established, and many extensive and imposing buildings erected, as evidenced by the numerous portions of massive stone columns which have been exhumed, and the discovery in 1850 of an entire site of a Roman villa. Near the Prætorium and Basilica, were traces of many temples, baths, and other edifices. A small fragment of Samian pottery, bearing an inscription full of human pathos, probably a love token, from Lucius the Gladiator, to his sweetheart, Verecinida Lydia, indicates there might also have been an amphitheatre.

There are on public exhibition two fine tessellated pavements in situ, as laid by Roman workmen more than eighteen centuries ago, one of these being the floor of the residence of the

Præfect or Roman Governor, and both in excellent preservation. These and other remnants of a similar character; the massive and imposing fabric of masonry called the "Jewry Wall"; the "Milliare," or Roman milestone; the stone bases and heads of columns, with a large number of other remains; Samian ware; glass and ornaments—all testify to the domination and long-continued sway of Imperial Rome. "The Milliare," one of the most important of these relics, the oldest stone inscription known in Britain, is now in the Museum. It is cylindrical in form, three feet six inches high, and twenty-one inches in diameter. It was disinterred in 1771 by the side of the Roman "Via Fossata," or "Fosse Way." It bears this inscription:—

"IMP. CÆSAR, DIV. TRAIAN, PARTE F DIV.
TRAIAN HADRIAN, AVG. PONT. IV., COS III.
A RATIS II."

The translation is as follows:—"To the Emperor and Cæsar, the august Trajan Hadrian, son of the divine Trajan, surnamed Parthicus, grandson of the divine Nerva Pontifex Maximus, four times invested with tribunal power, thrice Consul. From Ratæ two miles."

From this it is not an unreasonable conjecture that the Emperor Hadrian actually visited the city on his way to the North. Besides the "Fosse Way," another of the principal roads constructed by the Romans, the "Via Devana," passed through the City. The advancement of Leicester under the Romans must have been both continuous and rapid, for its name, Ratæ, as one of the important

stations in Britain, was published in Ptolemy's Geography at the beginning of the second century. Considerable evidence of Roman buildings has been found even outside the ancient city walls. Being situate on the "Fosse Way," several Roman Emperors, or Generals, who afterwards assumed the purple, would certainly visit, or pass through, Ratae on their journeyings to the North and South of Britain.

Among those, in addition to the mighty Hadrian, we number Clodius Albinus; the vindictive Severus; the cruel Caracalla; Carausius, his brother Geta, and Allectus. Also Constantius, with his British wife, the Empress Helena, father and mother of Constantine the Great, who was born at York. Constantine was the founder of Constantinople, of the Western Empire, and of Christianity as the prevailing religion of the Roman Empire. Possibly, also, Constantine's nephew, the gifted Emperor Julian, called the Apostate, visited Ratae. Julian offered sacrifices to the gods, and his mighty and subtle influence was directed to uproot Constantine's work, to destroy Christianity, and to revive and re-establish Paganism throughout the whole Roman Empire.

Ratae retained its importance as a city in this province until the exigencies of the Empire necessitated the entire withdrawal of the Roman forces from the country.

It will be seen that Leicester, therefore, possesses a wealth of ancient historical material and association almost unrivalled in the chronological annals of Britain.

CHAPTER III.

SAXON PERIOD, A.D. 550-780.

AFTER the departure of the Romans and the decadence of the Roman Municipium, the Engles (English) took possession of Leicester, about A.D. 550. They adopted the Celtic and Roman British name of *Caer-Legria*, adapting it to English as *Legre-Ceastre*. *Crida* became the first Saxon King of Mercia, in 586, with Leicester as the capital. Under the Saxons, Leicester continued to hold the title of city, and in 658 the early Bishops, who occupied the Bishop's Palace, officiated at the Cathedral, then existing upon the site where St. Margaret's Church now stands, but outside the city walls. The diocese of Mercia, being nearly a fourth part of the whole country, was subdivided by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, about 678. He appointed a Bishop over the Middle Engles, to the See of Leicester, and eleven Prelates followed in succession, until the See was reunited to Lichfield, in 691. It was again separated, and also afterwards reunited to Lichfield, in 703. But in 737 Leicester was instituted an independent Bishopric, with *Totta* (or *Torthelm*) as its first regular Bishop. Since that time the See has been merged in that of Peterborough.

Kenulph, the fourteenth Saxon King of Mercia, and his brother, Ceolwulph (who afterwards