

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1908.

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Notes.

THE MANORS OF NEYTE, EYBURY, AND HYDE.

HAVING in my note on 'Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens' (*ante*, pp. 41 and 142) referred to the manor of Neyte, I desire now to add the particulars gathered concerning it, and at the same time to refer to the adjacent Abbey manors of Eybury and Hyde.

It is assumed that the land conveyed to the Abbey of Westminster by the Norman Geoffrey de Mandeville, c. 1102 (a conjectured date), lay between the Tyburn stream (that is, the branch of the Tyburn sometime called Aye or Eye Brook, and later known as King's Scholars' Pond), which had formed the west boundary of the Abbey land in Saxon times, and the stream which we call Westbourne, but which in the Decree of 1222 stating the then west boundary is called Tyburn (or water from Tyburn, "aqua de Tyburne"), leaving it to be inferred that the two streams, east and west, were considered branches of the same water, which had many springs at or near Hamp-

stead.* Mandeville's grant to the Abbey† is brief and indefinite; the land is merely described as "the manor which he had near the church, to wit Ese" (entered in Domesday as Eia), and its east and west boundaries seem to have been determined simply from what is known of the Abbey lands before and after this acquisition, that is to say, as defined by the charter of c. 951‡ and the Decree of 1222.§ And that the Westbourne (our name for the stream) was the west boundary of the Decree is supported by the added clause which states that beyond (*extra*) lay Knightsbridge, Westbourne, and Paddington, these further lands of the Abbey being here named in the sequence of position in which we now find them.

Eia between the two streams, with the Thames on the south and the Oxford Road on the north, covered, as I compute, about 1,090 acres. This area came to be divided, or so it is believed, into the three smaller manors—Neyte, Eybury, and Hyde—but demonstration of their limits seems never to have been attempted, and probably is now impossible. To believe that what were known as manors had never defined limits may appear heretical, yet, as in the case before us, where there was but one lord, it may be thought possible that distinction was faint. Indeed, Sir Henry Ellis in his 'Introduction to Domesday Book' (1833) wrote that the manor of Eia, "by the name of Eybury," was by the Abbot conveyed to the King, thus implying that Eybury was a later name for Eia; and making no mention of Neyte and Hyde, he seems to ignore the divisional manors, although all three are named in the Abbot's grant, and in the Act which embodies it.

Neyte has seemed the most indefinite, yet the most interesting, because it was the one manor which furnished the Abbot with a house for retirement; Eybury apparently had merely the farm-house of a tenant, and Hyde perhaps a lodge or the dwelling of another tenant. The positions of these two, however, are preserved, while the name Neyte has been wiped out, and the situation become a matter of speculation. This being so, I set about the search, and having after

* Opinions as to the identity of the Tyburn, and even as to the significance of the name, vary extremely.

† Dugdale, 'Monasticon Anglicanum,' ed. 1817, i. 309.

‡ Kemble, 'Codex Diplomaticus,' iii. 72.

§ Wharton, 'Hist. de Episcopis,' &c., Append., 252.