



memory of this battle was erected by the late Lord Lansdowne a curious monument, since fallen to pieces, the plate whereof has been preserved and now stands fixed against the market place in the town with this inscription:—"In this place the Army of the Rebels under the command of the Earle of Stamford received a signal overthrow by the valour of Sir Bevil Granville and the Cornish Army on Tuesday the 16th of May 1643." The rebels were quartered here in the town some time before the action, till they were obliged to retire and entrench themselves upon the approach of the King's army.

In the Church the effects of their brutality are still to be seen; the timber that supports the roof is in many places burnt and discoloured, occasioned by making fires to dress their victuals, or perhaps out of savage wantonness only. The tower upon the western side is much shattered by the cannon from Stamford Hill, which is three quarters of a mile distant, and the image of St. Andrew, the tutelary saint of this church, had its head taken off by a random shot.

In this church is an antient tomb belonging to the family of the Arundels of Tresize overlaid with a curious marble stone of excellent workmanship, on which are indented five plates of brass representing himself, his two wives and twelve children, as also another plate round the verge, where is inscribed in very antique characters:—"Here lyeth buried Sir John Arundel of Tresize Knight who praised be God died in the Lord the 25th day of November in the year of our Lord God 1561 and in the 67th year of his age, whose . . . Our Lord" (*sic*. in MS.).

In the north window of this church lies a stone image of one Rodolphus de Albo Monasterio a very curious and antique piece. This gentleman was a very considerable benefactor to the church and poor of this parish. He gave in lands the yearly income of about £52 per annum to be disposed of by eight men or feoffees who are appointed as Guardians of the Church and Poor to receive the annual rents and apply them to the purposes of the donor. This Rodolphus in antient times had a good country seat and mansion house in this parish called by the name of the Manor of Benomy. This house of his stood near the haven of Bude, and was surrounded by the sea, a passage to which was by drawbridges only, but it is now a heap of rubbish, and even the ruins are scarce discoverable.

Near about the same time one Sparke a commoner gave for ever towards the maintenance of the church in lands the yearly income of £24 per year. To those lands in the time of Queen Elizabeth the Lords of the Manor of Stowe being the family of the Granvilles laid claim. It was therefore agreed by advice of council to surrender them up into the hands of the government, when the good queen confirmed them to this church as usual by a new grant.

Against the north wall of this church is erected a stone to the memory of one Mr. John Avery who was buried December 9th 1692

with this inscription upon it:—

“ Near by this place interred does lie  
One of the eight whose memory  
Will last and fragrant be to all posterity.  
He did revive the stock and store,  
He built the almshouse for the poor,  
Managed so well was the revenue ne'er before.  
The church he loved and beautified,  
His highest glory and his pride,  
The sacred altar shows his private zeal beside.  
A book he left for all to view,  
Th' accounts which are both just and true,  
His own discharge, and a good precedent for you.  
Be silent then of him that's gone,  
Touch not an imperfection,  
Since he a pardon has obtained from the Almighty throne.  
Look to your ways, each to his trust,  
That when you thus are laid in dust,  
Your actions may appear as righteous and as just.”

The year of Our Lord 1547 is memorable for a great plague or epidemical distemper that reigned at Stratton, whereof died in this little parish in the space of three months 153 persons, viz. in May 28, in June 38, and in July 87, and again A.D. 1576 and in the months of August and September 52 persons died of a like disorder.

One Simon Mourton Vicar of the Parish of Poundstock was hanged at the market house in the town of Stratton for high treason. He was hanged upon the 13th day of October 1549 and buried the 18th day of the same month. The cross or pedestal whereon he hung is wanting, but the stone in which it was fixed is still to be seen. This Mourton was one of the persons concerned in the rebellion in Edward VI's time, when the Cornish and Devonshire men petitioned the King to have mass and their images continued in their churches as before. The King's not complying with those propositions gave birth to this insurrection, which, under the conduct of Sir John Russell and the Lord Gray, was soon quelled in a decisive battle fought upon the 30th day of July 1549. In this battle the chief ringleaders of the rebellion were taken prisoners, viz. Humphrey Arundel Esq. Governour of the Mount, Soleman, Seggar, Tempson, Bray, Barret and this Simon Mourton, with many others who were hanged up for examples in several parts of Devonshire and Cornwall.

Not far from this place are some of the supposed imperfect remains of a causey, done by the Romans in their way through Brittain, but so much impaired by time that no distinct observations are to be made.

One Chamont formerly lived here in this parish to the age of 130, and is said to have been uncle and great uncle to 360. Elizabeth Cornish widow lived here also to the age of 114 who was buried the 10th of March 1691. She dwelt at Bude, lived poor and consequently upon a poor low diet. One Paine formerly lived here, a man of remarkable big stature and surprising strength. It is said that he weighed more than 450 lbs. though far from being a fat and corpulent man.