

**A HISTORY OF THE ABBEY CHURCH  
OF MINSTER, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT:  
WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE  
MONUMENTS, AND OTHER MATTERS  
RELATING TO THIS ANCIENT PARISH**

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A history of the abbey church of Minster, Isle of Sheppey, Kent: with a description of the monuments, and other matters relating to this ancient parish by W. Bramston

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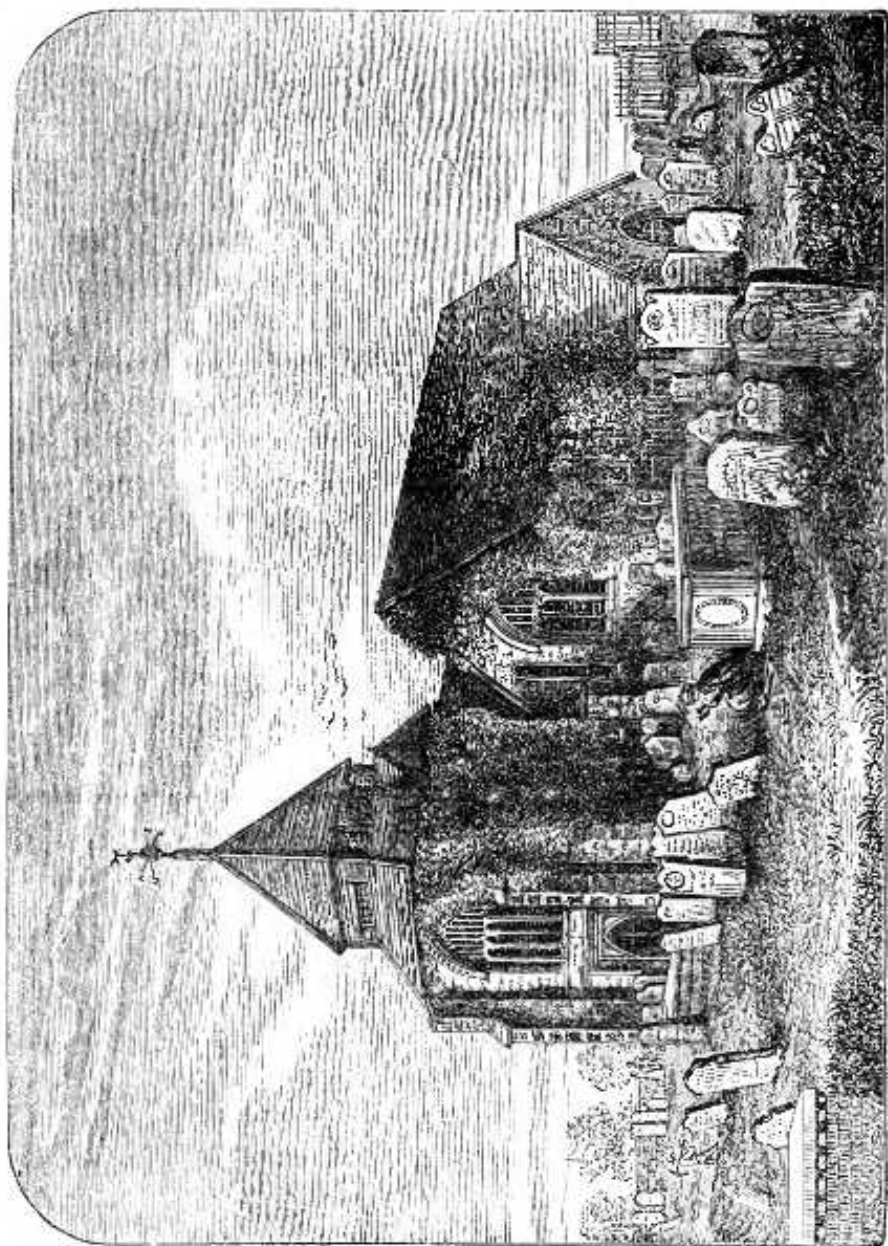
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**W. BRAMSTON**

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THE ABBEY CHURCH OF MINSTER.

A HISTORY  
OF THE  
ABBNEY CHURCH OF MINSTER,  
*ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT,*

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENTS,  
AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO  
THIS ANCIENT PARISH.

BY THE  
REV. W. BRAMSTON, M.A.,  
VICAR OF MINSTER, AND RECTOR OF WARREN, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT.

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## Dedication.

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED (BY PERMISSION)

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT

TO THE

MOST REVEREND

FREDERICK TEMPLE, D.D.,

*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,*

BY HIS MOST OBLIGED AND HUMBLE SERVANT

WILLIAM BRAMSTON.





TO THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SHEPPEY,  
AND ALL THE MEN OF KENT INTERESTED  
IN THEIR LITTLE ISLAND, AND ALL OTHER  
READERS.

**I**N such a work as the present, the Editor rather than the Author has to request the partial judgment of all. It is almost impossible to put on record all the various views held on matters which are brought before you of very early origin. He has to peruse a mass of authorities, and form his judgment on them, contradictory as they sometimes are.

Let me give an instance. The editor of the *Builder*, commenting on the Abbey Gate House, stated that it was in the parish where St. Augustine baptized ten thousand persons in A.D. 597. Now at the last archaeological meeting it was publicly stated that this baptism took place at Minster in *Thanet*. Let us notice, further, that the most reliable authorities state that this baptism took place in the *River Swale*. No such river exists near Minster in *Thanet*. To further confuse readers, historians who probably had never heard of the River Swale in Kent send St. Augustine to the Swale in Yorkshire, and record that this great baptism took place there. Later ones, who perceive that St. Augustine could not have taken such a journey, state that Paulinus baptized ten thousand persons in the River Swale in Yorkshire.

If the Editor were to give all the authorities on which he forms his judgment, this little work would extend to an unreasonable size, and would not effect the object that is in

view. The object is to interest, and it may be amuse, all lovers of Sheppey and her Abbey Church. If then, good reader, you consider that the view on any matters spoken of here be incorrect, judge the Author leniently; and if, learned reader, you hold the view taken to be untenable from evidence to which you have been able to obtain access, give the Editor the benefit of your opinion, and he will gladly alter in another edition, according to the evidence sent him, the matter on which you are able to speak with authority.

But any way, may we all desire that the noble edifice that has for one thousand two hundred and thirty-five years held worshippers of the MOST HIGH, and which has, at great cost and much self-denial, been restored to its pristine beauty, may long continue to hold devout and earnest worshippers, who in the long ages may join in spirit all the saints of GOD who have gone before them.

Thus, as Weever writes, "submitting myself and this work to thy learned and friendly censure, I take my leave."

*Written at Strasburg in September, 1896.*