

## The Channel Islands

A place long since demolished in the ruine of it, and *jam periere ruinae*, but now the ruines of it are scarce visible, there being almost nothing left of it but the steeple, which serveth only as a sea-marke, and to which as any of that party sail along, they strike their top sail. *Tantum religio potuit suadere*, such a Religious opinion have they harboured of the place, that though the Saint be gone, the wals yet shall still be honoured."

This steeple with the surrounding ruins was blown up in 1793 by order of the Governor of Guernsey on the ground that it might prove of service to the French should it fall into their hands. But the custom of paying reverence to the once sacred spot is observed by the fisher-folk to this day.

The island remained in the possession of the Governors until early in the eighteenth century, when with Herm and Jethou it was leased to the Englishman Nowell, with a proviso that the neighbours had the right of landing on his coasts to fish and to cut the *vraic* or seaweed which is particularly abundant there, and is used by the farmers to fertilise their lands.

It then passed to Messrs. John de Havilland and William le Marchant, and thence to William's brother, Eleazar le Marchant, Lieutenant-Bailiff of Guernsey. This Eleazar was of a somewhat litigious disposition and evolved a very pretty quarrel respecting the right of the Islanders with regard to this *vraic*. Though they might cut it on his domain, he contended, they had no right to spread it out to dry there. It appears by the Report of the Royal Commissioners for 1815 that