No 3
KENT
LATHES AND BAILIWICKS

Sutton Dartford

LATHE OF

SUTTON
AT HONE

Sutton
Bromley

SUTTON AT HONE

LATHE OF

Hoo

Milton

LATHE

OF

LATHE OF

St Augustine
CANTERBURY

Scray

AYLESFORD

Eyhorne

Bridge

Eastry

SURREY

AYLESFORD

ST AUGUSTINE

Twyford
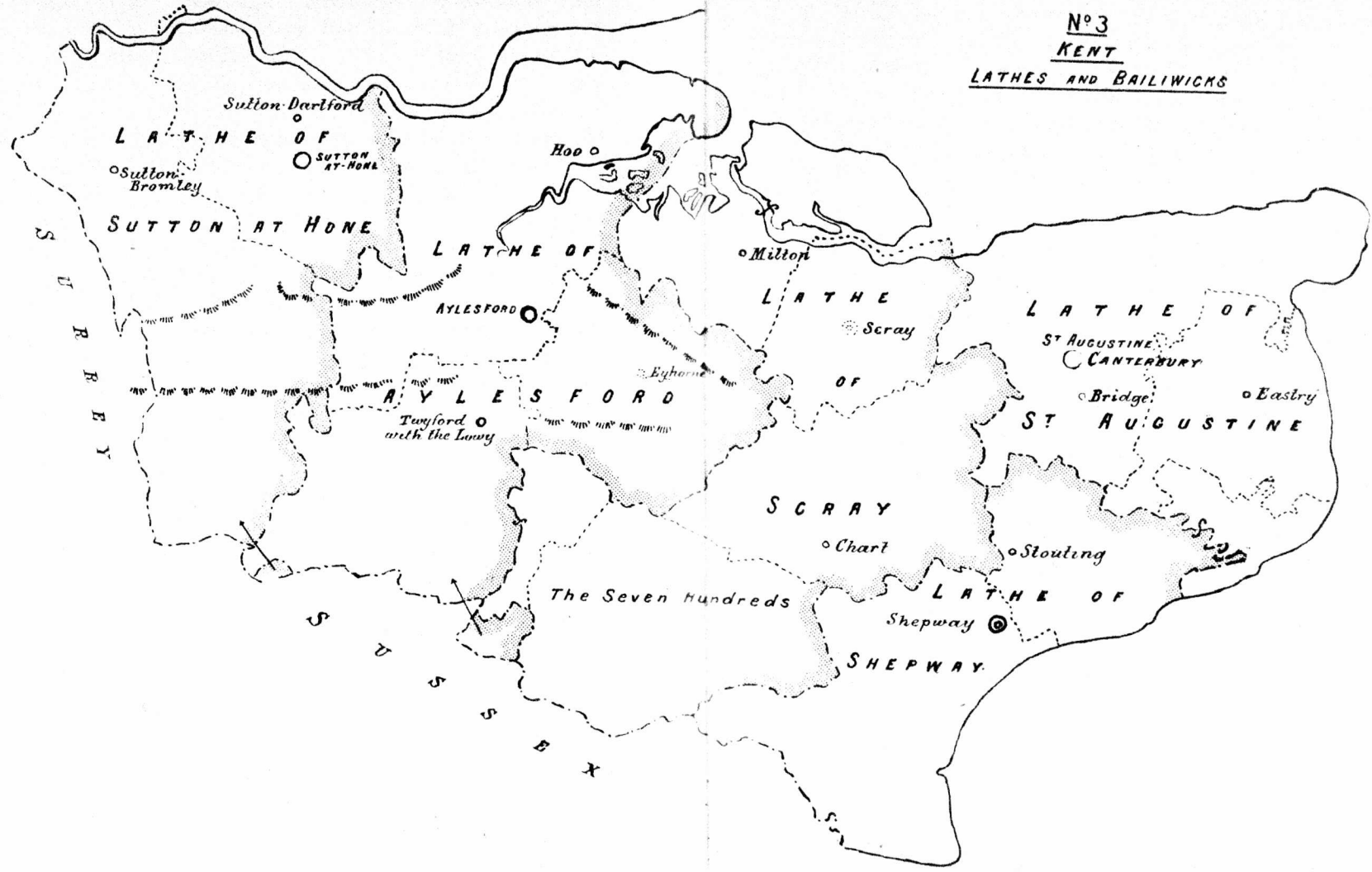with the Lowy

SCRAY

Chart

Stouling

SUSSEX

The Seven Hundreds

LATHE OF

Shepway

SHEPWAY.

question. The fact that the place-name is found in the northern rather than the southern extremity of each of such areas would support the contention that, as regards West Kent itself, its civilization and development moved from the north in a southerly direction. As regards " spiritual " subdivision, it should be borne in mind that the Cathedrals of Canterbury and Rochester both lie to the eastern rather than the western end of our county, while the original Rural Deanery covering the bulk of the Kentish Holmesdale derives its name from Shoreham at its northern extremity.

It may well be that the " conversion " and subsequent ecclesiastical control of both the Holmesdale and the western portion of the Weald of Kent emanated and continued to be directed from Shoreham.

To return to our plan of tracing development by the place-names, the subdivision of the bailiwick was the hundred, just as the subdivision of the hundred was the tithing or borough.

In spite of variations and changes in the tithings recorded from time to time, and to a lesser extent in the hundreds found in our county, we may with confidence look upon the successive divisions of tithing or borough, hundred and lathe, as an actual survival to the present day of a system which was in existence at the landing of St. Augustine, and was still better established on the arrival of King William. If this suggestion be right, we have in our tithings or boroughs units of local government or control older than the parochial system subdivided out of bishopric, archdeaconry, and rural deanery older than the advent of Christianity itself, and which perhaps represent the nearest approach we can make to the foundation of society as we see it among us to-day.

These Kentish boroughs must not be confounded with the better known municipal borough, indicating something in the nature of a large provincial town. The Kentish borough may well have been but a hamlet or a cluster of farm buildings grouped together for the purposes of com-

munal responsibility and represented by a head man, tithing man or decener at the hundred court.

It is stated above that, speaking generally, the bailiwick is not subdivided. Two exceptions should be mentioned. First as to the bailiwick of Stouting. The place-name of this bailiwick is on the extreme western boundary, and near to the place-name of the lathe of Shipway, of which it forms part. But the easternmost hundred, called Buesborough, figures in the adjoining lathe of St. Augustine, and not in the lathe of Shipway as do the four other hundreds belonging to this bailiwick. Buesborough hundred is intersected by the Roman road leading from Dover to Canterbury, and the inhabitants could reach Eastry or St. Augustine's at Canterbury, the successive place-names and presumably the points of assembly of the bailiwick and lathe to which their hundred appears to have been transferred, with much greater ease than they could have reached Shipway.

Similarly as regards the bailiwick of Twyford, in the lathe of Aylesford, the hundred of Marden in its southeastern corner figures as part of the adjoining lathe of Scray. The reason may be somewhat the opposite of our previous instance. Marden was always an appendage of far distant Milton, itself a place-name of a Domesday lathe afterwards made a bailiwick of Scray. Here it would be a convenience for the men of Marden to meet at a bailiwick muster in Twyford rather than Milton, though, as soon as the seven hundreds and Milton were all included in the lathe of Scray, Marden might well be similarly embraced.

As regards hundreds which figure in more than one bailiwick, Kilburn mentions two only. The one is Kinghamford, one parish of which, namely Wootton, is included in the bailiwick of Eastry rather than the bailiwick of Bridge. The advantage is less apparent here. The second instance lies in West Kent. Here the four Cray parishes with Bexley, all of which lie in the hundred of Ruxley, itself a part of the bailiwick of Sutton-Bromley, appear in the bailiwick of Sutton-Dartford. The consideration of convenience would apply here, with the added advantage of doing some-