

THE
FEUDAL HISTORY

OF THE
County of Derby

(CHIEFLY DURING THE 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH CENTURIES).

BY

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AND

CHARLES PYM YEATMAN,

A Student at Law.

VOL. V., SECTION IX.

Attest 

BIRMINGHAM :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY MOODY BROS., NEEDLESS ALLEY.

DERBY: MR. F. WOORE, ST. PETER'S STREET.

PREFACE.

The Author is unfortunately compelled to give an explanation of his position with regard to the future issue of the History of Derbyshire, and an intimation to his subscribers that, notwithstanding his recent bankruptcy (which was no doubt maliciously intended to wreck it, like Messrs. Bemrose's repeated attacks), the contract between the Author and his subscribers is in no way altered or terminated; but that the work will proceed in the usual course, although at present under the control of the Official Receiver of the Court of Bankruptcy.

Messrs. Moody Bros. have so much faith in it that they have resumed the printing of Section IX., now partly executed, and by the end of the Long Vacation it will be in the hands of subscribers.

The Author must blame himself for giving his enemies the opportunity of striking at him, since it results from his own folly in submitting himself to the ordeal of our Courts of Law—far more terrible than those of water or fire, for under our wretched Judicature Acts any man who voluntarily submits himself to be sued, or to sue, is sure to suffer. Under the old system of the three great Courts, mutually keeping each other and themselves in order, there was a prospect that the well known decisions would be followed, and a moral certainty of justice; now there is only a certainty of loss and confusion. The danger to the public has been enormously increased by the illegal destruction of the Order of Serjeants, which presented a check and prevented the Chancellor of the day from placing upon the bench unfit men without their sanction and approval. Besides, a Barrister ought to remember that members of the profession have not, and never had, any chance of obtaining justice. Nevertheless, having paid the contract price for Section VII. of this work, he resisted a dishonest attempt by the Good Templars, of Birmingham, to compel him to pay a sum of £24 19s. 6d., chiefly for extras, to which they were not entitled under their agreement in writing (expressly based upon their old written agreement for printing Section V.). The law was perfectly clear that to enable a party to recover judgment where the contract is in writing, it must be produced; but neither the old nor the new agreement were stamped, and the penalty for not stamping was £22, so that the Author was apparently protected from an unjust claim, and he was legally entitled to a non-suit—unless (as it happened, and there is no longer any check over them) the Judges chose to set aside the law, which they were enabled to do in this case, through the Judicature Acts giving them the power to deprive the Author of his right to appeal from their erroneous decision, a power which they chose to exercise.

Costs, under our cheap and nasty County Court system, having been run up to £89, rather than submit to such extortion, the Author preferred bankruptcy (although he is not a bankrupt), chiefly because he can use the machinery of that Court to compel his dishonest publishers, who owe him considerable sums, properly to account and so annul the bankruptcy. The farce of that Court, which presents no terror to an honest debtor, so far as the Author is concerned, is at an end, only one creditor, Mr. Hughes (for the firm styled "Mitchell and Hughes"), attempted to prove his debt, and, although he was present with his solicitor, he dare not appear or oppose either at the meetings of creditors or the public examination, for unfortunately for himself he had ventured to swear that the Author owed him £192, instead of a balance of about £77. This he based partly upon old accounts, forgetting (?) that they were disposed of by Mr. Justice Ridley's decision (fully reported in the preface of Section VII. of this work) by which it was found that the question of accounts was determined by the agreement (dishonestly denied by Mr. Hughes and disliked by the Author) to divide the stock between them, and Mr. Justice Ridley awarded the Author the paltry sum of £10 for the value of over 100 Vols., fully worth £210 (they are now selling at £2 10s. each), of which Mr. Hughes had boldly attempted to deprive him. Mr. Hughes had not only forgotten to account for these contemptible damages, but also for some money paid into Court as security for discovery.

By the old rules of law and honour, the Author, having won a substantial sum *in tort*, and having been compelled to prove his agreement in Court (Mr. Hughes' counsel kept up the farce of denying it as long as he could), he was entitled to his costs; but under our improved system of judicature, which discards such trifles as honour, they were awarded to the publisher. Now Barabbas was a robber—and his fellows, the Good Templars, were also debarred from appearing in Court, they too having unfortunately made a mistake in swearing to their proof, they having forgotten (?) that they held as security stereotypes of the book which they printed, so that the rather comical result follows that notwithstanding the outlay of £20 (which some one must benevolently have found), their debts are now cancelled, unless their defaulting brother-publishers can be made to act honestly—a clear case, rather pleasing to an author's mind, of dog eating dog. In any event the Author is released.

It will be seen that although this new attempt to wreck this work has failed, it will inevitably delay its issue, unless some of the

subscribers will assist by paying in advance some portion of their subscriptions to Messrs. Moody Bros., who will account to the Official Receiver; and it may induce some to do so by reminding them that the Victorian History of Derbyshire (which is not yet written, should it ever appear) will not help them, as it will only contain some 25 pedigrees of the newly rich—leaving out of account hundreds of the ancient families of the County now, alas, landless, but who are of far greater interest and value—except to the new families.

It may be regretted, so far as future subscribers are concerned, that until these publishers can be brought to book, the delivery of the early Sections cannot at present be guaranteed, few copies remaining on hand; but the Author will do his best to deliver complete sets to all new subscribers who speedily apply for them. Very few copies (about ten) of Section III. are known to exist, Mr. B. B. Hackney, of the Midland Circuit (acting manager of the late S. C. Press, of Lewes), having made away with 200 copies because it contained an account of the boycotting on the old Northern and Midland Circuits, which he had printed. This portion of the work will be reprinted, as well as any other which it may be necessary to reprint, but not until the whole work is issued. The Good Templars negligently destroyed a considerable portion of Section V., with the aid of their badly-fed rats, for which, of course, the Judges refused to allow the Author any compensation. Messrs. Moody Bros., with Mr. F. Woore, of St. Peter's Street, Derby, will continue to act as publishers for this work, as well as for *The Gentle Shakspeare*.

It would be affectation on the Author's part to pretend that the little check occasioned by these legal fireworks has seriously impeded the issue of this work; it has undoubtedly put him out of gear for a time, but as this is not the first serious difficulty he has had to contend with, he has no intention to allow it seriously to embarrass him. He has all the material at hand—sufficient to produce a vast history, covering the greater part of the county, which he has carefully indexed and arranged so that he can at any time take up any part of it and resume the issue. These unfortunate delays make but little difference to him, beyond the loss of time, and as years roll on he cannot but feel that he is drawing nearer to the period when he will be compelled to hand over the task to another, for assuredly his collections are of great value; but so long as he can do the work with advantage, so long will he continue upon his task. Belonging himself to a distant county, he has no motives of friendship or of

enmity to induce him to swerve from his duty as an honourable man and a just historian, and he will continue his progress without fear, favour or affection, simply because having put his hand to the plough he will not take it off so long as he is able to continue his work. He has no brief to advocate the cause of any one, and he trusts to be fair to all alike. Unlike the Victorian historian, he is not a worshipper of rank or of wealth, and he has little respect for the possessor of either, unless these advantages are accompanied by moral worth, but he entertains a great respect for ancient lineage, quite apart from its present representative, or from his former tenure of land, and it is his chief object to illustrate the history of ancient families, whether now landowners or not. He has, indeed, a great abhorrence for imposition, and perhaps no county in England has had so many sham pedigrees foisted upon it. This was owing accidentally to several miscreants, but chiefly to the Dutchman, Derrick, who assumed for himself a great Derbyshire name, and so ignorant was his age (the effect of the great Reformation, when learning of every kind was exchanged for the tinker's philosophy) that he actually dared to invent a grandfather, who, he declared, held the high office of Norroy—a purely fabulous monster. Those who have studied Derbyshire history must have been struck with the extraordinary difference between the magnificent pedigrees of this vile Elizabethan period, when a whole series of fabulous ancestors were displayed by nearly every family, going back to one period, the Conquest, unadorned by dates, for they would provoke enquiry and discovery, and the poor men were generally recorded without their wives, except some of a mythical character; this disparity appears in contrasting them with those allowed by the great Dugdale, who, happily for Derbyshire history, cut down and demolished the greater part of them. That impudent pretenders of the present day should attempt to revive the Elizabethan frauds is amusing, and one looks for the advent of the great Victorian History, where these glories shall be faked up again. It was in the Elizabethan age and under Cromwell when generally the ancient families died away and were supplanted by opulent tradesmen, small church robbers, or purchasers from them, and especially in Derbyshire, by dealers and speculators in lead, and the descendants of many of these people are now flourishing in the county and claim great pedigrees. Alas, they do not care for the truth of history, they would be satisfied with any kind of rubbish, with which the Victorian History is certainly to be filled. Unfortunately, for some reason these histories hang fire—responsible

and respectable editors will not lend themselves to work under the necessary conditions. Derbyshire has already had three or four editors palmed upon her (only one possible man) who have all thrown up the task with disgust. And it is the same with other counties, they do not approach completion because their editors are continually deserting. A large number of first vols. have been issued (apparently to secure the subscriptions), but the work is not county history, and but two or three volumes out of the 52 counties have as yet appeared, and they only contain about 25 pedigrees apiece, chiefly of the newly rich of the last century and a half, whose histories are only of interest to themselves. Still, an introductory section is promised to describe "the other principal families of the County. The whole work, fully bound, may be obtained for the trifling sum of £30 9s. This is really very cheap and inspiring, but it will hardly ensure a large sale.

Since the issue of his last Section, the Author has had to deplore the death of Mr. W. A. Carrington, of Bakewell, one of the very small band of Derbyshire archæologists surviving. Mr. Carrington was a very careful student of antiquities and a most industrious and painstaking collector. For his great services in bringing to light the valuable collection of Records at Haddon Hall, and for properly arranging them, the late Duke of Rutland, ever ready and able to discern true merit, appointed him his Curator of Records, and he arranged and classified the splendid collection at Belvoir in an admirable manner, many years ago. When the Author was privileged by the Sixth Duke to examine and make abstracts from them, they were in utter confusion—now they are not only arranged properly, but Mr. Carrington has calendared and abstracted them, and he has copied many of them in full. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, by descent and in manners, and he was ever ready to assist others in genealogical matters; for years his stores, collected from many repositories, were freely open to the Author, and only a week or two before his death he permitted him to take such MSS. as he pleased to the Rutland Arms Hotel (where he was then staying) and to copy what he desired for this work. This readiness to aid others was occasionally and very curiously abused. Mr. Horace Round, by his system of abuse, frightened the Deputy Keeper into appointing him (a most unfit man) to make an account of the Belvoir Records for the Royal Historical Commission, and he unduly pressed Mr. Carrington to allow him to carry away his transcripts, amongst others, of the Belvoir Household Accounts, which he coolly proposed to publish, nearly *in extenso*, in his own name. Mr. Carrington, though he strongly objected, was too much a gentleman to decline, the Duke having been most unfairly and prematurely

asked for his permission. Mr. Carrington was only just dead when Mr. Round made a most shameful use of his work. Through Mr. Sidney Lee (ever ready to crib) he published a most fulsome and ridiculous account of a "Shaksperian Discovery," of very small value, and ushered it to the world through *The Times* newspaper as a most important Shaksperian discovery, "which threw a strong light upon the mist of ages." This ridiculous *mus* was a single item in the Belvoir accounts, showing that the Poet had condescended to accept a fee of forty shillings from the then Earl of Rutland for preparing a sketch of the Earl's "achievements," to enable his friend Burbage to paint a coat of arms. Yet the credit of making this mountainous discovery was not given to Mr. Carrington, or even adopted by Mr. Round or by Mr. Lee. The last was only glorified "by being privileged to give it to an anxious public"—the credit of the great discovery was divided between "two great palæographical experts," who, needless to state, had nothing whatever to do with it. This is Mr. Lee's honest method—he covers himself with glory and then pretends to give the credit of the great discovery to others. At page 30 of this Section the Author has exposed him for annexing certain other "great Shaksperian discoveries," using them in his book as his own and then affecting to give the credit of them to another "great palæological expert" Mrs. Stopes: for very properly complaining of this literary piracy, Mr. Round most improperly accused the Author of abusing his friend. What will these two worthies think of the exposure of their last little literary peculation?

The reader will observe that the chapter exposing Mr. Round's foolish attempts to republish the Elizabethan fakement of the Gresley pedigree is naturally followed (now that they are proved to be descendants of the Albinis in the male line) by detailing the history of the Abneys, the Ingwardbys and Measams, of Willesley and Measam, and other families, although differently because locally named, yet all of the same race, and with them a branch of the Albinis now spread over the Continent of America still bearing the name of Abney, the head of whom is Mr. John R. Abney, Counsellor-at-law, of New York. It is time that English County histories—although the great Victorian manufactory rigorously excludes them—should give a proper account of our American cousins. The attempt is here made with the offshoots of the greatest of Derbyshire families, but it will probably be followed by others. The publication of the great family history of Levenet, Chancellor of Henry I., in the last Section, has elicited the fact that a great many families in America bearing the name of Ely, perhaps properly, claim descent from Helias, of Bakewell, and so too the Morgans of America have a clear descent from the Kings of Powis, from whom also descend the great Derbyshire feudal tenants, the Peverels and the Fitzalans.

P.P.S. This postscript and Chapter I. of this volume were duly sent to Mr. Round. No doubt he had felt himself safe in writing libels under the protection of the proprietors and publishers (Messrs. Bemrose & Sons) of the *Derbyshire Archæologia*, but he forgot that if he repeated his libels in any journal, the Editor of which was actuated by the rules of conduct which govern gentlemen, that he laid himself open to a reply, and having used the *Athenæum* (under the former Editor) to vilify and abuse many scholars—infinately his superiors—he ventured to change the venue and to republish (at least by reference) his *Derbyshire Archæologia* libels in that paper, he thus brought himself under the Author's lash.

Mr. Round dares to write, "This statement so far as it affects me, is absolutely without foundation—is in fact mere mendacity."

(This quibbling is dealt with in the reply), and then he writes, "I do not know whether any scholar in this country would attach any importance to anything Mr. Yeatman might say; but as I gather in his next paragraph that he is preparing to supply our American cousins with pedigrees, it may be well to warn them that his statements, however definite, should be received, as I have shown, with caution. If further proof is required it will be found in 'The origin of the Shirleys and of the Gresleys)' " (*Archæological Journal*, 1905).

This is vulgar impertinence; the Author is not in the habit (as Mr. Round is) of puffing himself and his wares. One instance of Mr. Round's method will be given presently. The Author was protesting against the system of the Victorian County History, which excludes the pedigrees of all except the newly rich, amongst land owners; but even if he had advertised himself as preparing to supply any or everybody with pedigrees, how could that justify Mr. Round in repeating his infamous libels in the *Derbyshire Archæologia*. The present Editor of the *Athenæum*, of course, felt himself compelled to give the Author full space in which to answer him, and he availed himself of his courtesy by writing the following reply, which appeared on the 8th September last:—

"THE BELVOIR HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS.

"Though also loth to encroach on your valuable space, I think that, in the interest of literary decency, some notice should be taken of Mr. Round's attack on me; but in using his opening words, I do not intend to abuse your columns by

mere personalities. I will answer Mr. Round in as terse a manner as possible.

"I had been compelled in my work to expose his conduct, which may fairly be described in his own words, for making unwarrantable additions to, and corrections of Domesday and the Red Book of the Exchequer, and of giving false dates, perhaps ignorantly, to other documents. Wishing to compel him to answer this I *myself* supplied him with passages from my 7th Section, and recently with the advance sheets of Chap. I. of Section IX. of my work, which I published in advance of the volume; but instead of sending his reply to me direct or to any publication in which I could claim the usual privilege to reply, he sent it to the columns of a private journal open to regular subscribers only.

"As to the other charges of mendacity which you permit him to hurl at me in respect of this ridiculous *mus*, which, compared to the more serious matter, is not worth noticing, I do not understand what it is that he denies. I had my facts from Mr. Carrington himself—he was a life-long friend, and I knew from himself how dissatisfied he was with Mr. Round. He was a man incapable of untruthfulness, and I have good reason to know that his family has been much hurt at Mr. Round's abuse of his privileges, and quite recently I have had the satisfaction to receive from Mrs. Carrington her warmest thanks for having in this Preface vindicated her husband's memory. Does Mr. Round deny that this great Shaksperian discovery was taken from Mr. Carrington's private MSS., and that they were borrowed by Mr. Round himself from Mr. Carrington, who was led to believe that certain acknowledgments were to be given to him, although no worthy ones have ever been made? How came Mr. Carrington's MSS. to be restored to his family after his death disfigured by underscoring of parts evidently intended for the printer? All this may have been a dream except the underscoring—but it is wrong to call it mendacity. Will Mr. Round explain what he admits and what he denies?—and I will answer him. And will he explain how it was that when he saw the merit of this great discovery improperly given to another man he did not at once set the matter right?—the onus lay upon him to do so. It is, however, to the malicious attack made upon me in the last paragraph of Mr. Round's letter that I would particularly call attention.

Mr. Round does not seem to regard my scholarship more highly than I view his pretensions. This is very sad, but—happily, I think I can get over it—his motives in thus attacking me should be exposed. Your readers are not, perhaps, aware that we are rivals in bringing out a history of Derbyshire. I have the start of him by the issue of eight volumes (from the Preface of the ninth of which he evolves this libel). He has made frantic efforts to force his work upon the county, but without much success, for in my work I have by anticipation exposed many of his feudal blunders.

“J. PYM YEATMAN.”

“* * * While reserving an open mind on the subject under discussion, we must so far agree with Mr. Yeatman as to refuse the use of our columns further in the matter.”

This did not quite satisfy Mr. Round, he had largely advertised himself or allowed himself to be advertised by Mr. F. Murray, as Editor of the *History of the Feudal Baronage* for the forthcoming *Victorian History of Derbyshire*. Mr. Round, though compelled to submit to the Editor's decision, was evidently much troubled by this statement. Either Mr. Frank Murray had, without authority, advertised him as responsible for the *Feudal Baronage*, or the publisher of the *Victorian History* had dispensed with his aid, which is most likely, for they were also furnished with a copy of this postscript and of Chapter I., showing Mr. Round's unfairness and incapacity, and they would no doubt see that such a reckless writer might do great injury to their property; however this may be, Mr. Round again approached the Editor of the *Athenæum*, asserting that he is not engaged on any History of Derbyshire, and the Editor courteously wrote to the Author explaining his desire that the matter should be corrected by him with the Author's sanction; of course he at once assented, but to justify his assertion, he forwarded to the Editor one of Mr. Murray's advertisements, in which he had used Mr. Round's name. If it is true that Mr. Round no longer lends his great talents and his very unexceptional knowledge in aid of the Victorian County Histories, both the publisher and the Derbyshire antiquarians are to be congratulated; but the mere lover of fun will be disappointed, for if Mr. Round is ridiculous on a small matter, what would he be in editing the whole Baronial History?

Mr. Round's excessive, not to say painful, modesty is exhibited in the following little paragraph, recently published in the *Evening News*. It was written at the time when the House of Lords made a dreadful

mess of the Norfolk peerage case. Perhaps it is not unfair to suggest that their blundering was inspired by the trusting too much to Mr. Round's exceptional knowledge. We know, from his own statement in the *Ancestor* (Vol. I., p. 279), that "we understand that in preparing the cases for the Committee for Privileges of the House of Lords for the Crown, the Treasury has been greatly assisted by the very exceptional and extensive knowledge which Mr. J. Horace Round has placed at its disposal." Now we are privileged with a further disclosure of the obligation of the Government to Mr. Round. "Dr. Round," writes the *Evening News*, "who is to-day in the House of Lords watching the Norfolk peerage case as adviser of the Crown, is a historian and antiquarian whose name has, perhaps, more honour in Paris or Berlin than in England—a country which is careless of experts, recognising scholarship only when labelled in an official position. But his word is law in all matters relating to Domesday Book or the incidence of the feudal system, and it is somewhat remarkable that Mr. Round's own University at Oxford should have allowed a Scottish University to give him his first hood as a Doctor of Law."

Did ever literary man brag like this?

Derbyshire can at last rejoice in the possession of the work Messrs. Bemrose and Sons have been so long preparing, and for which they suppressed or destroyed half the Author's list of subscribers. They have at last issued it, in a modest manner, as "Derbyshire Charters, edited by Mr. Jeayes," a very valuable collection, made from some of the repositories at which the Author was so fortunate as to obtain access, only it is to be hoped that this is an instalment, for it does not contain a tithe of the Charters in the Author's collection. The question may be asked, was it worth while to attempt to destroy the Author's work for such a substitute? The account of receipts, at last, under pressure, delivered by Messrs. Bemrose to the Bankruptcy Court, are now proved to be false; they appear to have lost their own ledgers, as well as the lists of their customer's subscribers, for this false accounting is of a very serious character. Their receipts of moneys paid, now discovered, amount to more than double the amount they profess to have received, so that they are debtors to the Author's estate, and must, besides, account for having wilfully wasted his property.

15, Greenhill Road, Harlesden, N.W.

17th March, 1907.

SECTION IX., VOL. V.

CHAPTER I.

THE IDENTITY OF THE GRESLEYS WITH THE ALBINIS.

This important identity may now be considered as finally and fairly established by clear and undoubted evidence.

In order to expose the motives for the malignant misrepresentations and calumnies respecting himself, uttered by Mr. Horace Round in the *Derbyshire Archæologia*, and to establish the truth upon a firm basis, the Author undertook the work of clearing away the false pretences and false allegations respecting the history of the Gresley family, and of constructing it upon sound evidence—a work which ought to have been done by those who presumed to enlighten the genealogical world respecting it, but who violated at every step the very first principles of feudal law, failing utterly to justify their unhappy guesswork.

It is with no small pleasure that the Author now produces order out of chaos, and at the same time establishes the accuracy of his views expressed some quarter of a century since, in his "History of the House of Arundell."

The position taken by the Author (in Sections VII. and VIII. of this work) was simply antagonistic to the modern views upon the subject. It was enveloped in so much ignorance and obscurity that it appeared hopeless to propound any rational theory; but having sifted and arranged the evidence, he is now able to give a clear and conclusive account, which disposes of the guesswork of his opponents, and establishes the pedigree upon a firm basis.

In the *Derbyshire Archæological Journal*, 1904, in an article, "The Origin of the Shirleys and of the Gresleys," by J. H. Round, M.A., are these words: "To all who are interested in the history of our old 'Conquest' houses, the names of Shirley and Gresley are, or should be, familiar. For these families, which both derive their names from Derbyshire Manors, and the ancestors of which were knightly tenants of Ferrars, Earl of Derby, enjoy the very remarkable distinction of holding at the present day manors which belonged to their Domesday ancestors. I am in a position to show beyond dispute that the attacks on their pedigrees contained in the work styled, 'A Feudal History of Derbyshire,' are wholly without foundation. That well-known writer on feudal pedigrees, the late Mr. Eyton, described the pedigree of the Gresleys as 'a genealogy second to none among the Commoners of England;' and the singular attempt to prove that the early Gresleys, of Gresley, were identical with the co-temporary Albinis, of Cainhoe (in Bedfordshire), and not with the later and modern Gresleys, is a mere dream for which there exists no ground whatever. I propose to prove this in detail in the next volume of this journal, and shall hope at the same time to throw a little fresh light on the Feudal History of the County, and the records on which it is based.

"I may, perhaps, be permitted to add, as I am somewhat vehemently assailed in the work referred to, that in not one single instance has my critic succeeded in impugning the accuracy of my statements or the soundness of my conclusions. This also can be proved."

After a silence of nearly three years, only broken by this promise (now over a year old) to give a complete answer when the Editor of the *Derbyshire Archæologia* would give him an opportunity—as if no other Editor would be so courteous, and as if it were essential that his reply should be given in a magazine of only local influence, only open to subscribers—Mr. Round has now issued his reply in that *Journal* to the charges made openly in the *Derbyshire Times* nearly three years ago, and in this work, with respect to his own essays, or critiques, and latterly to his articles in the *Ancestor*.

These are, in fact, very grave charges against his honour, which Mr. Round himself describes as gross and (wrongly) as abusive; they are of having tampered with, and added to the evidence of Domesday and the Red Book of the Exchequer, by unwarranted glosses of his own, in order to support and give currency to the erroneous theories of Illewellen Jewitt, Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley,

Mr. Jeayes, and Mr. Madan, and a host of others, respecting the origin of the Gresleys of Drakelow, a question which Mr. Round admits is of vital importance to Derbyshire history, and most people would think of some little significance to his own reputation as a scholar and a man of honour.

The charges made, he admits, were clear and specific, and how has he answered them? It would have been far better, for his honour's sake, to say nothing of his scholarship, if, as he originally announced, he had continued to wrap himself "in lofty scorn," for by his mode of answering he has only more grievously committed himself. In his defence he cites Domesday, but apparently only to show that the charge respecting it was well founded, for there is nothing in it, upon his own showing, to justify him in stating that it referred to the Gresley family; and he is absolutely silent and shirks all reference to the Red Book, because, on referring to it, he would find to his horror that it has no reference whatever to the subject, for the simple reason that Nigel de Stafford's Domesday fees were then in the King's hands, and there was no representative to answer for the barony; in other words that, as the Author has contended, there was a break in the tenure. This little difficulty would discourage most men, but apparently relying upon the inattention of the readers of the *Derbyshire Archæologia*, Mr. Round dishonestly endeavours to twist and shift the charge to a matter of very small importance, quite apart from this enquiry, arising out of an entry in the Lancaster Pipe Rolls. Finding himself utterly without the means of an honest reply, he adopted the usual methods of the critic, by throwing as much mud at his opponent as he could conveniently pick up. The greater part of his lengthy reply of some 34 pages is taken up with an attack upon the Author, in respect of his views upon the Shirley pedigree, which have absolutely nothing to do with the matter in question, but which formed the subject of a very scurrilous notice of the first volume of this work, which had been sent to him for review by the then Editor of the *Academy*, but who, of course, refused it admission, actuated partly, no doubt, by its abusive and scurrilous terms, but chiefly probably, for that Editor was a learned man, by the crass ignorance of feudal laws and history which Mr. Round exhibited in its composition. In spite of this rebuff Mr. Round now writes that he has never published any review of any of the Author's work; that he failed to do so is scarcely a credit to him. This seems to have rankled

in his mind ever since; perhaps he was unable to find an Editor weak and ignorant enough to admit it to his columns. It is only due to the Editor of the *Derbyshire Archæologia* to state, that having discovered the unworthy use to which that paper has been put, through Mr. Round's malevolence (which dishonours every supporter and subscriber of it) that gentleman has retired from the Editorship. Perhaps he has discovered that he has been made the catspaw of Messrs. Bemrose, who after their attempts to destroy this work by losing, or pretending to lose, the names and addresses of about half the subscribers to it, no doubt thought wholly to destroy its reputation by publishing Mr. Round's gross and scurrilous libels.

The main issue is an important one, it is whether a certain family (to which of all others Derbyshire is most indebted for the best strain of her blood) was Albini or Toesni; curiously they have a common origin. Mr. Round elegantly writes: that the Author has "an obsession of his beloved Albinis." He might in this manner retort, that Mr. Round's obsession is a plethora of Gresleys; but, alas! in him it does not evolve love, but rather, as Virgil has it, "*Obsessas fauces premit aspera lingua.*"

The Author confesses to a greater interest in the Albini family, partly because he rather prides himself upon having been, certainly, the only English author to discover the identity of the Albinis with the family of St. Sauveur, Viscounts of Coutances, the ancestors of His Majesty King Edward VII., whom Mr. Round is so anxious to belittle by depriving the Fitz Alans of their great descent in the female line from King Griffith and the daughter of the Earl of Mercia. The Albinis were the direct issue, in the male line, of the great Ivar Jarl, of the Uplanders of Norway, from whom the Dukes of Normandy and our first Norman kings descended.

It is not, therefore, very surprising, as Mr. Round asserts, that the Author's breast was filled with "curious and fierce wrath" (with many other adjectives supplied by the aspera of the great critic) by finding that the family historians of the Gresleys, now of Drakelow, without a particle of proof, had thrust aside his "beloved" Albinis, and promoted the Toesnis in their stead. Terrible though such an assumption might be, the Author, perhaps, might have borne it with equanimity, but, in fact, his indignation was seriously aroused by the means adopted by Mr. Round to bolster it up, to the confusion of truth and of Derbyshire history.

Mr. Jeayes, of the MS. department of the British Museum, recently, in giving an account of the MSS. at Drakelow, went rather out of his way (see p. 121, Vol. IV.) to challenge the Author, as a Derbyshire historian, to refute the pedigree of the Gresleys, which deduces them from the Toesnis, and which was apparently "faked" in the time of James I. This Mr. Round calls "the accepted pedigree," though, as a fact, it has never been accepted by any "supreme authority" except by himself. The family very wisely did not submit it to Derbyshire visitations, or the great Dugdale, who disposed of so many faked up Derbyshire pedigrees, would have adjudicated upon it, and he would hardly have been so indulgent as the sentimental Mr. Round.

Mr. Falconer Madan, of the Bodleian Library, who is a relation of the family, unfortunately for his reputation as an archæologist, instead of rejecting it, admitted it, but with a caution, in his history of the Gresley family.

Mr. Round, who modestly writes of himself as one of whom "no one perhaps is better known as a critic of pedigrees than myself," being, for some mysterious reason, anxious to uphold Mr. Jeayes, is filled with "curious and fierce wrath" with poor Mr. Madan for honourably admitting that the claim was made without proper proofs—he should have written without any. There is nothing in the writing of either Mr. Jeayes or Mr. Madan to arouse animosity, they have simply made a mistake; but when a great critic like Mr. Round—sitting as "the supreme authority"—proceeds to bolster up this absurd pedigree to the destruction of all others, by unjustifiable means, by tampering with and adding to the sacred scriptures of English genealogy, Domesday and the Red Book of the Exchequer, it becomes a different matter, and it is impossible to regard his methods without scorn and contempt, *hinc illæ lacrymæ*. Mr. Round has ruined many reputations in the *Athenæum* and other papers, and he is indeed, as he boasts, too well known as a critic of pedigrees. He has, through his friends, liberally advertised himself in these papers as the foremost genealogist of the age, facile princeps, etc., etc., but no one, except perhaps his victims, need trouble themselves about it, for as soon as he ventures to write a book, as it is so often the case with these critics, he displays his ignorance. The *Ancestor* (now happily defunct) was intended as an advertisement for Mr. Round's absurd scheme for bringing out new county histories for all the English counties, under the masterly editorship of himself, and, of course,

of incidentally smashing up all existing histories. It was announced to be, and, no doubt, aspired to be, "the supreme authority," the guide and teacher in all things genealogical and heraldic (see p. 278, the *Ancestor*), and to justify his own proud position as such arbiter he had the modesty and delicacy to write, "The Treasury has been greatly assisted (in preparing its cases for Coronation privileges) by the very exceptional and extensive knowledge which Mr. J. Horace Round has placed at its disposal." Of course the Treasury gave him leave to publish this official secret, probably to stifle the "curious and fierce wrath" which their absurd decisions had created in the minds of some of the unhappy aspirants for honours.

The Author is one of those who decline to accept Mr. Round's supremacy, and he has shown in Sections VII. and VIII. of this work, written in answer to the *Ancestor*, the unworthy attempts to aid Messrs. Jeayes and Madan to propagate their errors. Mr. Round is virtuously astounded at the charge that he ever sanctioned their crude absurdities. Such a charge is monstrous!!

He writes in the *Archæologia*, "This is the exact opposite of the truth, I did not even mention Mr. Jeayes in my article, and I praised Mr. Madan for his candour in admitting that actual proof is wanting for the descent from Toesnis. . . . Here, then, we have another of Mr. Yeatman's characteristic assertions"—that is in plain English that the Author is characteristically a liar. Perhaps Mr. Round will now produce some other proof to justify his libel. But, alas, for his own veracity. He had, apparently, forgotten that on page 195 of the *Ancestor* he wrote, "The most notable feature in the Gresley descent is the origin of the family as a branch, it is believed, of the Norman Toesnis. . . . It has been asserted that one branch of the Royal Toesnis still flourishes in the male line, Nigel de Toesni or de Stafford, a younger brother of the Standard-bearer's, held Drakelow at the time of Domesday." If this is not an adoption and approval of the theory, it is certainly not "the exact opposite" of it. It is unnecessary to drag in the name of the noble writer respecting "the Royal Toesnis," under whose petticoats Mr. Round tries to shelter himself, for it is a mere drawing room book, and not a work of authority. He endeavoured to protect himself still further by adding, "Even Mr. Eyton, who mentioned this belief, did not reject it." Mr. Eyton was, indeed, a great authority, and, of course, he may have fallen into error—even Dugdale tripped occasionally—but it is to be

regretted that in making this statement Mr. Round was "characteristically writing exactly opposite to the truth," for Mr. Eyton's MS. pedigrees are to be found in the British Museum Add. 31938, etc., and in his Toesni pedigree, which, no doubt, was carefully considered, he distinctly rejects it, and here is Mr. Round's exact contradiction to Mr. Madan, "Mr. Madan, we think" (as the supreme authority he properly uses the Royal "we," or, perhaps, he was only writing as Editor of the defunct *Ancestor*), "is the first to admit, and the admission is a proof in itself, of his praiseworthy caution, that actual proof is wanting for the relationship of Nigel de Stafford to his alleged brother, Robert de Toesni. . . . As to the chronology, however, one may offer a small criticism, because the point is one which others may be glad to note. . . . This correction removes a difficulty in the way of accepting the early pedigree, and it is, therefore, peculiarly satisfactory to have such excellent evidence of the first few generations." His criticism is, indeed, so very small that one fails to discover its meaning, but his peculiar satisfaction in accepting the early pedigree "on such excellent evidence" would seem to indicate to the unlearned mind that he approved of it, and, therefore, it follows that it was not a lie on the Author's part to assert that fact.

Mr. Round then asks this pertinent, and rather impertinent question, "Who then is guilty of confounding the Toesnis with the Albinis? Why, it is my critic himself" (meaning the Author). "In his great work, 'The House of Arundell,' he writes, 'Nigel de Stafford held Gresley, it would seem probable that he was a Toesni, and brother of Robert Toden, of Stafford, younger son of Roger de Conches. It seems probable that he was also called at other times Nigel Albini.'" The Author was simply giving the common belief, he was writing with reference to another matter, the origin of the de Busli family, but at the same time he was expressing his own views, which opposed it. At page 76 he wrote most distinctly that "Nigel was a common name with the Toesnis. Robert de Stafford had a brother, Nigel, who must not be confounded with Nigel Albini, of Domesday," and he noted the fact that at that period, both in the Toesni and Montgomery families, "it was not unusual for them to have two sons of the same Christian name." At page 74 he wrote, "We learn from Roger Toesni's Charter to Conches that his wife's name was Godhilde (and it would seem that she was the daughter of Raymond Borel, Count of Barcelona), by whom he had Ralf, his

successor, Robert de Stafford, Nigel, his brother, and Godchilde. . . The Conches Cartulary has a Charter of Godhilde, Countess of Evroux (former wife of Roger de Toesni)." "Other accounts state that the widow of Roger Toesni was at one time (possibly before her marriage with him) the wife of Niel, the Viscount of Cotentin, who was the father of that Nigel Albini, of the Cotentin, who came to England with the Conqueror, and was the grandfather of Roger Albini, his Pincerna." Finally, the Author wrote, page 157, "There is only one way in which William Albini Brito (father of Roger Albini) could strictly be called the brother of Robert Todini, that is as his brother of the half blood." In face of this clear distinction between the two men, Mr. Round has the audacity to write that the Author had confounded them; at all events he endeavoured to show that they were different persons. The history of Robert Todini, of Belvoir, entirely disposes of the idea that he was the father of Nigel de Stafford, of Domesday, the ancestor of the Gresleys (as Mr. Madan asserts), because Berenger was his eldest son, and the history of the whole family is sufficiently known, and he certainly had no son named Nigel.

Mr. Round, in ignorance that the effect of the Red Book is to show that there was a break in the tenure of Nigel de Stafford's fees, writes:—"Amazing though it would seem, Mr. Yeatman does not condescend to offer a scrap of evidence in support of his statement that the modern Gresleys bought their estates. . . . The Gresleys succeeded one another without a break for generations before the baronetcy. They were knighted regularly for twelve generations. Where was the break in this knightly line? When and how did the old stock come to part with the estate? When did the novus homo buy it? To these questions Mr. Yeatman can give no answer."

This is a shocking paltering with truth, for, independently of the evidence of feudal records, which speak for themselves, as any one presuming to write on these subjects should know, the Author gave a very clear and full account, with dates, of the mode by which the modern family acquired most of the estates held by Nigel de Stafford at Domesday. At page 143, Section VII., he cited an Inquisition post mortem of Charles Allen, taken the 29th Dec., 35 Elizabeth, which proves that he held Gresley Linton, Hathcote, Gresley Newtown, Donesthorpe, Okethorpe, Hartishorn, Bashford, (part of Gresley

Manor), and Swadlincote, all territory of Nigel de Stafford of Domesday. Lysons affirms that these manors remained in the Allen family until they sold them to the Meynels, who, in 1775, sold them to the modern Gresleys, who are now Lords thereof.

Sir Henry Berkeley, senior heir of the Mowbrays, sold part of Swadlincote to the Gresleys in 1567, with Cotes and part of Linton. In 11 Elizabeth, Henry, Lord Berkeley, and Catherine, his wife, sold to William Gresley Catton and Linton, Walton-on-Trent, Donesthorpe, which were spoils of the Church, and the Gresleys themselves acquired from King Henry's nominees the spoils of Gresley Priory, which in course of years had absorbed property in Drakelow, Gresley, Hethcote, Donesthorpe, Boythorpe, and Swepston, given to it by the piety of generations of the holders, who had become possessed of it as freemen, or perhaps by purchase from the early Lords of the manors. In 37 Edward III., a John Gresley gave a virgate and five acres of meadow in Heathcote and Swarthingcote, and Church Gresley to the Priory—probably part of Eugenulf's possessions, all of which the family resumed through the piety of King Henry VIII.

The authority for much of the history of the scattered possessions of the Gresleys was taken by Lysons from S. Pope Wolferston (whose family is mentioned in Chap. II. of Section VII. of this work). If the information is false, Mr. Round should prove it, and not write nonsense about it. It is probably accurate, and thus disposes at once of Mr. Round's assertion that the property descended from father to son of this knightly race, which is untrue, like the statement that they were all knighted for twelve generations. Except of one or two members, nothing whatever is known of them.

A full account of the possessions of the modern Gresleys after their purchases from the Berkeleys and the Church robbers is to be found in the Inquisition post mortem of William Gresley, who possessed Drakelow, and lands valued at £30 12s. 6d., by the service of $\frac{1}{20}$ th part of a knight's fee, and £3 rent, which he purchased from Robert Watson, who bought it from two well known Church robbers (Andrews and Lowe); he had also land in Swadlincote and Hartishorn, bought from the same, two cottages in Gresley, and lands in Boythorpe, Okethorpe, Donesthorpe, and Netherseile, much of it bought from the Dethics, who inherited it from Robert de la Ward, under whose banner Peter de Gresley, the Freebooter,

was enrolled. Robert Ward died 35 Edward I., seized of the Manors of Newhall, Swepston, Heathcote, and Hartsthorn, all part of Nigel de Stafford's estate, which he held of Theobald de Verdun for $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a knight's fee. His coheirs brought them to the Meynels, who carried them to the Dethics. The Inquisition post mortem of Sir John Gresley, of 3 Henry VII., shows that he most probably represented Nigel de Stafford, of Domesday, for like him he held the Staffordshire property of the Earls of Stafford and Arundel and the Bishop of Chester; and only Drakelow, valued at £40, Lollington, and Castle Gresley, value £20, held of the Duchy of Lancaster, Sir Thomas, his son, aged 31.

Lysons gives a few more scraps, which are interesting and suggestive, and which confirm the Author's view that there was no continuous holding of the estates. He states that two of Nigel de Stafford's manors, Stapenhill and Tickenhall, went to Burton Abbey by the grant of Roger Pictaviensis, but this must have been only of the churches, or how came Domesday to record that Nigel held them? No doubt Roger's fee, on his rebellion, became vested in Nigel Albini, the Conqueror's near relation, who was jointly interested with Roger in Lancaster and other counties, and this doubtless accounts for the Lancaster Pipe Rolls containing Nigel Albini's name long after there was any one of that name. The rolls of the latter part of the reign of Henry II. relate back probably to a grant more than 100 years previously.

Foremark and Hartshorn were given long afterwards by the King to Bertram de Verdun, with the daughter of Robert de Ferrars in free marriage, of whose heirs Robert de la Ward, lord of Peter Gresley, held it. This must have been late in Stephen's reign, or early in that of Henry II., probably the latter; this indicates that Stephen gave to Earl Ferrars part of Nigel de Stafford's Barony, Smithsby was given to the Comines, the very place, Trangesby, is lost, and Ravenstone was given to Gerondon before 1168, clear proof that the Barony was broken up and disposed of piecemeal.

The question which still awaits an answer is, how came the descendants of Nigel Albini or de Stafford to lose their Barony, and when and how came the Gresleys to hold under the new owners?

It was evidently long before the Red Book, and seeing that much of it vested in the Earl of Chester, it would seem that he obtained it

from Henry I. in free marriage with his grand-daughter (the daughter of his illegitimate son, Robert, Earl of Gloucester), to whom he was much attached, for the great tyrant had the virtue for caring for his offspring whether legitimate or not. This seems to be Mr. Eyton's view.

The Pipe Rolls for Leicestershire, 1183-4, show that Robert Gresley, of the Red Book, held some of his estates of the Earldom of Chester for William, his son, then fined for succession to them. Hugh, the last Earl of Chester (grandson of the marriage of 1128) died 1181, his daughter, Mabel (one of his coheirs), being then the wife of William Albini, Earl of Arundell; he died 4 Henry III.; Isabella, one of his daughters, being then the wife of John Fitz Alan, under whom the Gresleys held their Staffordshire estates. Testa de Nevil proves that in the time of Henry III. Thomas Fitzherbert held Twycross (one of Nigel de Stafford's manors), of the Lady Isabella Albini. Robert de Tattersall, who married her sister, obtained Willesly, which Henry Ferrars held at Domesday, showing that the King had seized the Ferrars' estates.

In 1240, Geoffry de Gresley held his Staffordshire estates of Fitz Alan, and so did Peter in 1330, though when he was sued he pleaded that John de Clinton was his medius and ought to discharge him.

Mr. Round feebly asks what has Fitz Alan to do with Derbyshire history? Of course he is ignorant that this family were lords of the Peverils. He ventures to sneer at the Author for suggesting that the Gresleys and the Albinis suffered under Henry II. for their fidelity to their superior lords, the Ferrars. His knowledge of history is so great and exceptional that he supposed that Henry II.'s quarrel only arose in 1173, whereas it existed before Henry came to the throne, and he never acknowledged his Stephenite Earldom of Nottingham. William Earl Ferrars evidently owed the restoration of his estates to King John, who granted him Drakelow, then held in petit sergeantry by William de Gresley at the same terms of service under which Nigel Albini, the Bow Bearer of William II., and, probably, of his father, always held it in chief, a very different tenure than that of William Gresley, although Mr. Madan and Mr. Round know so little of feudal law that they cannot see any difference between that tenure and a barony.

The first point to be established is the identity of Nigel de Stafford with Nigel Albini, and this is strictly proved by following the history

of the several manors held by him at Domesday. The identity of Nigel de Stafford with Nigel of the Derbyshire, Stafford, and Leicestershire Domesday is perfectly clear. When he makes his own return he calls himself de Stafford, but when his great relation, Henry de Ferrars, names him as his own tenant, he calls him simply Nigel in Catton, for instance, which Nigel Albini's descendants held for centuries.

Llewellyn Jewitt, in his edition of Derbyshire Domesday, erroneously states that Nigel de Stafford held Drakelow and Gresley at the time of Domesday; but, as a fact, Gresley, as a manor, is not mentioned in Domesday, and it is quite clear that Drakelow was the chief place of Nigel de Stafford's Barony, as it had been the caput of Roger de Poitou, its pre-Domesday holder. The hundred in which Drakelow was placed was called de Gresley, and the Castle, which was built here—probably in the time of Domesday—was in the king's hands, and therefore, not being geldable, it was not mentioned in that Inquest. Mr. Madan's reason for the change of the names because of a modern plague is untenable; both names existed before Domesday.

Nigel Albini was son or brother-in-law of Henry Ferrars. Looking at the date of his birth and the age of his son Henry (who had sons and grandsons in the time of King Henry I.), the probabilities are that he was brother-in-law of Henry Ferrars. Llewellyn Jewitt, who evidently had not studied the question very deeply (he wrote from Winster, and not from Duffield), discreetly omits this marriage in his pedigree of Ferrars, although he has given the names of some of his daughters and grand-daughters. It is important to see how Henry Ferrars names him in his Derbyshire return: when referring to manors held by Nigel Albini of himself as Catton, he is named simply as Nigel, and he is the only Nigel mentioned in the Derbyshire Survey, except Nigel de Stafford and Nigel, the holder of Ralf Fitz Hubert's Manor of Uffenton, who is also simply Nigel, but since Ralf Fitz Hubert and Nigel de Stafford held manors in Engleby, he is probably the same person, otherwise it would appear that Henry de Ferrars did not discriminate between three persons of the same name, one of whom was his near relation.

The same thing occurs in the Leicester Survey. When Nigel Albini is referred to as a Holder-in-Chief he is so called, and Nigel simply for all the manors which he held of Henry Ferrars. Surely these four

Nigels were all the same man. This is absolutely proven with respect to Nigel Albini's tenure of Catton, Twycross, and Seile, and it is also proved that Nigel de Stafford held Ferrars, Manor of Norton-juxta-Twycross (who was named Nigel only in Domesday), so that Nigel, as holder of all these manors, is shown to be Albini de Stafford.

The date of Nigel Albini is a very early one. His father was Nigel de St. Sauveur, by Godhilde de Barcelona, who subsequently married Roger de Conches, by whom he had Ralf de Toesni, Standard-bearer at the Conquest, and Robert de Stafford.

It is therefore manifestly impossible that Nigel de Stafford of Domesday could be the grandfather of Robert Gresley of the Red Book, as there was about 200 years between them. Eyton discovered this, and suggested the interpolation of another Nigel, and in this General Wrottesley has followed him. It is always a dangerous thing to invent a degree or two to get rid of difficulties of date, and rarely permissible; and certainly it is erroneous in this case. Another difficulty was that whilst Henry de Ferrars gave Nigel Albini four manors, his descendant, Robert Albini, only held one at the time of the Red Book. This was no doubt Catton, which his descendants held long afterwards. But how came Robert de Gresley, who was clearly descended from William fil Nigel, to hold them at the date of the Red Book? If Robert de Gresley was not identical with the heir of Nigel Albini, who held them at that date? But there was another difficulty which the Author noted (at page 280 of Vol. I) when he wrote "there was some error in the generally received pedigrees of the Albinis of Cainhoe, for it has to be explained how William fil Nigel, who was clearly a younger brother of Henry, came to hold these manors of the Ferrars." The pedigree of the Cainhoe family is clearly shown in the first line, by the Charter of Robert fil Robert, fil Henry, fil Nigel Albini, to St. Alban's, which Patric de Cadurcis confirmed. There was no one named William in that line of descent. But there was another difficulty, the Leicester Survey shows that Henry Albini held the Seiles at the date of it in William de Gresley's life-time. There was a trifling difficulty of date in identifying that Henry with the lord of Cainhoe. Mr. Round disposes of that difficulty in his breezy manner by giving a false date to this record. The Author has summarily disposed of Mr. Round and his date at page 395 of his last Section, and he does not now even attempt to set it up again—indeed he is modestly

silent upon the exposure of his really terrible blunder—the Author there suggests that Henry Albini of Seile must either be a new member of this family, hitherto unknown (he had forgotten Henry of Wychford), or he must be Henry de Gresley, who, as younger brother of Robert de Gresley, attested many Charters of their common lord, the Earl William Ferrars. This is again assisted by the statement of Nicholas de Longford in his Charter to Kenilworth, who calls himself younger brother of William de Gresley and son of Nigel. That this conjecture was sound is now clear beyond all doubt, from the application of the findings of a Wiltshire jury respecting the possession of Henry Albini of the Manor of Wychford, in that County, and this single record disposes of the whole of the difficulties just enumerated—that of the date of Nigel, grandfather of Robert of the Red Book, is disposed of by showing that Robert, eldest son of Henry of Cainhoe, had a brother, Nigel, to whom he gave the estate of Wychford, which he inherited from Henry of Cainhoe, his father, who had it most probably in free marriage by the grant of Patric de Cadurcis; once it is shown how Robert of Cainhoe settled lands on his brother, it is easy to see how he stripped himself of all the Ferrars' manors except Catton. This solution again disposes of the Author's difficulty, stated in Vol. I., that William fil Nigel was a younger brother of Henry. The error was in the relationship: it was not that William, but his nephew, who succeeded Nigel. Robert of Gresley, like his cousin Robert of Cainhoe, again provided for his brothers with estates—Eugenu'f with Swadlincote and Henry with Seile and Wychford; or possibly William, son of Nigel, provided for Henry, his son, for he certainly held Seile in his father's life-time, as the Leicester Survey proves. All these extraordinary results, which can leave no doubt in the mind of a skilled genealogist, are derived from a single record, published not very long since by Roberts, in his *Cal Genealog.*—but which is unfortunately omitted in the new Calendar of Inquisitions.

This record brings down the Albini pedigree not only to Henry of Seile, of the Leicester Survey, but to his great-grandson, Morice de Bonham, of the 6th Edward I., that is, seven generations, extending above 200 years, step by step, without a halt. It is the more remarkable because it in no way relates to Derbyshire, or to any of Nigel Albini's manors in Leicestershire, but to an insignificant manor in

Wiltshire, Wishford (or Wycford), of which Sir Richard Colt Hoare (who had not seen this record), in his history of that County, laments that he could give no account. He writes: "In my account of this manor I cannot go higher than 9 Edward II., when, according to the Index Villarum, John Bonham was lord;" but in fact he adds a piece of information (taken probably from Dugdale, who records it), which gives a clue to the history. In St. John the Baptist's Day, 10 John, there was a feud between Asceline, Abbess of Wilton, and Henry Albini, concerning the advowson of the Chapel of Great Wichford, (saving the Church of Nieweton), which recalls an act of spoliation of King Henry I., long since forgotten. These two manors (Wichford and Newton) were at the time of Domesday the property of the Abbey of Wilton, and seem to have been wrested from it by that King, for his own convenience, and by him to have been given to Patric de Cadurcis. On the 14th Jan., 52 Henry III., there was an Inquest to ascertain by what right "Walter Albini, the beloved cleric" of King Henry III., claimed to hold the Manor of Wychford, with soc and sac tol and theam, Infanganethef., and other wonderful royal privileges of a pre-Norman date, which apparently had excited the envy of the Sheriff, and caused him to encroach upon the manor, when the jury found this amazing story:—that King Henry (avus, avi of the then king) gave that manor to a certain Patric de Cadurcis, with all these privileges and customs, as the king himself enjoyed it, that Patric held it for a long time (*pro multa tempora*), and then gave it to Henry Albini, who enjoyed it for his life, with its full privileges, without any interruption, and upon his death his son Robert succeeded by hereditary right, who also enjoyed it until he gave it, with all its privileges, to Nigel Albini, his brother (the younger), who remained in seizen the whole of his life, and yet no sheriff of the county, or bailiff, or minister of the king ever had ingress upon the said manor. After Nigel's death, William, his son, held it as his inheritance for his whole life freely as his father had done, and after the death of William, his son and heir, Henry, succeeded, and it appears that Walter was his son and heir. In 1 Edward I., Walter was dead, and it was found by Inquisition that he held the manor of the heirs of Robert Albini (showing that he had given it to his brother).

Henry, his brother, was his next heir. Another Inquisition proves that Henry died 6 Edward I., leaving his sister, Claricia, aged 36, and

Juliana, another sister, whose grandson, John Bonham, was then 25 years old. This shows a great disparity in age between the two sisters. There is an error in the verdict of 52 Henry III., which states that Henry was the heir of William fil Nigel, but this is corrected by the verdict of 1 Edward I., which proves that Henry held the manor of the heirs of Robert Albini, no doubt his brother, who was the heir, unless it should be contended that Robert de Gresley, of the Red Book, died without issue.

It will be found on collating this pedigree with that of the Gresleys of Drakelow, that it agrees with it in every particular, which is remarkably fortunate, seeing that the period covers over 200 years, and bridges over the period when there is no continuous records to utilise for the purpose. The chances against such a series of coincidences are too great to allow even of a suggestion of there being any doubt upon the subject. Assuming the record of 52 Henry III. to be genuine (of which there can be no doubt), the identity of the Gresleys of Drakelow with the Albinis is absolutely proven.

Henry Albini, of Wychford, who is clearly identical with the lord of Seile, and the successor there of Nigel de Stafford of Domesday, was living in 10 John, and he shows his date by subscribing, in 23 Henry II., the sum of half a marc for the dual of his lord, the Earl Ferrars, to which Robert Albini, his medius, subscribed five marcs, whilst Robert de Gresley, his brother, subscribed two, and John Fitzherbert half a marc. This record brings this great crux in the Fitzherbert pedigree more prominently into view. Amicia de Albini, Lady of Seile, who married William Fitzherbert, must have been a coheirress of Henry, who obtained this Seile property, and she was endowed with the manor on this marriage, no doubt, by Henry Albini, her father. How else could she have obtained it? That her husband was seized thereof in his life-time is clear from the fact that when, in 1 John, she was sued in respect of it by the Seiles, she called his son John to warranty, and subsequently, on his death, William Fitzherbert, his brother; her date is quite early enough for this period, because it appears from her law-suits that she had been in litigation with the grandfather of the Lucien de Seile in the action of 1199 (see page 180, Section VII.) respecting this property which she claimed as her "maritagium," and she must have been about the same age as Claricia, the daughter of Henry Albini of Wychford. It may be hazarded that she was identical with that lady, who evidently did not share in

that portion of her father's inheritance in Wilts. Another very interesting result obtainable from this record is that, in all probability, we obtain a clue to the family of Cecilia, the wife of Henry Albini, of Cainhoe, from which something more of the history of that family, as well as of the Chaworths, may now be learnt. Very little, unfortunately, is known of either of them; it may well be that Henry Albini obtained this Manor of Wychford in free marriage with the daughter of Patric Cadurcis; the fact that he or his son, Patric, attested the Charter of her grandson to St. Alban's, shows that they had some interest in her estate, which was affected by that grant, although it did not affect Wychford.

The few Assize Rolls which remain show that the Gresleys throughout the thirteenth century—a most corrupt period of English legal history—were constantly involved in disputes with the holders of the property which had once belonged to the Albinis, which proves their descent from this family, for on no other hypothesis could they make the claims they did. It showed, unfortunately, just as is the case at the present day, that more wrong was done under the colour of the law than in defiance of it, though assuredly the Gresleys did not refrain from openly breaking the laws; but the numerous outlawries and penalties which they provoked may have alarmed and, perhaps, embarrassed them. There is great difficulty in understanding their position. Geoffry Gresley, in 25 Edward I., held Drakelow, Gresley and Lullington, of Edmund, brother of the King, no doubt as part of the forfeiture of the Earl of Ferrars, though clearly they held their Stafford property of the Fitz Alans, for in Trin 38 Henry III. Elizabeth, widow of Wm de Gresley, was sued by Philip de Clinton for two parts of the Manor of Kingston, in which he complained of false judgment; in 2 Edward II., Peter de Gresley excused himself from performing the services on the ground that John Clinton, of Hennely, was his medius, and that he obtained Edinghale through one John Gresley. Joan Gresley, widow of Peter, in 4 Edward III., pleaded that she and her late husband held Drakelow, Lullington, and other estates by grant of one Walter de Brinkleburn, who is unknown, though probably he was identical with Walter de Brindebere, who was mixed up with various disseisens at that period. After the battle of Evesham, when so many properties wrongfully changed hands, he evicted William de Lassord, part of whose estate belonged to the Countess of Kent, whose heir was John de Burgo. His

daughter and coheir married Robert Gresley, of the Lincolnshire family. In some unwarrantable manner Peter Gresley claimed the wardship of the heir of this Lincolnshire family, to which he might have had a fair colour of right if he represented the early lords of Drakelowe, of whom Albert Grelly no doubt held his Lincolnshire estates (see page 128, Section VII.). But this claim was contested by Philip de Lindsey in 1284, and Peter was compelled to shift his ground and to set up a grant by Robert de Grelly, which was held to be worthless. There was a Peter de Gresley of the Lincolnshire family, but he was a cleric, and this Peter was probably the hero of Drakelowe, for he was imprisoned for trespass by the Sheriff of Worcester in 1277, and then ordered to be released. He was a soldier, serving in King Edward's wars, under several captains, and evidently had great friends who aided and screened him in his various transgressions. His fate is unknown, it probably terminated in violence when in great activity in legal warfare. The Assize Rolls of 2 and 3 Edward II. show that he was involved in several evictions, one respecting Drakelowe, in which he was successful. In one case certain Lynton tenants sued him, when he succeeded in proving that he was the chief lord of Lynton, which appeared to have been questioned. He died about this period, or shortly after, for on M. 12d. of the Assize Roll No. 1,347, there is a very puzzling entry. After a notice that one Assize was not proceeded with, probably on account of his death, it is added (possibly it was made some time afterwards), "A day is given to Nicolas Ingwardby, 'custodi Alicie filie Petri de Gresle participio.'" This Nicolas de Ingwardby held his estates under Peter Gresley as his lord, and he bore the Albin arms, a lion rampant. His estates of Willesley, which had been part of Henry Ferrars' holding at Domesday, came through the Earls of Chester and Arundell to Robert de Tattersal with the Albin coheir, and they afterwards came to the Abneys by marriage, it is said, of the heiress of Ingwardby, some of whose descendants bear the Albin arms to this day. But how Peter de Gresley became concerned in the estate is unknown, or whether this daughter Alicie was his heiress, and how? Peter had numerous sons, who may have been bastards. His relative, the Parson of Lullington, openly acknowledged his bastards; most of them were outlawed or killed, one named Peter was pardoned for his murders, but was slain 1326, five years after the entry in the Assize Roll. In 4 Edward III., Geoffrey

de Gresley claimed free warren in Gresley as son of Peter, who had obtained it at the instance of Hugh Despenser. The right was disputed, apparently upon the ground that Peter did not hold the estates ; but this difficulty was got over by payment of a fine and by a declaration that he had demised them to certain persons, those doubtless who are mentioned in the Subsidy Rolls. He attempted in the same way to obtain these rights in Lynton, but this was absolutely refused. Johanna, widow of Peter, who claimed the same rights for Lullington, not as of inheritance, but as Peter held it of the grant of Walter de Winkleburn, she was not the mother of Peter's children, for her heiresses were found by Inquest respecting the Stafford estates of Ermentrude fitz Walkelin (Ferrars), to be her three daughters by her first husband, Thomas de Staunton.

If there is any substance in Peter de Gresley's claims, it can only have been that he was the heir of the Albinis, but no reliance can be placed upon any legal proceedings of that period, because it is always uncertain whether the action is genuine or a mere sham contrived by the Judges, with the aid of the Sheriffs, who had power to select juries, from whom they could obtain verdicts, which the Courts at Westminster sometimes, even if they wished, were unable to set aside. So flagrant was this corruption in Wales, and so general during the reigns of the Tudors, that a judgment was at once set aside at the instance of either party, upon simple proof that the Sheriff was related to either of them. The Sheriff was an officer like the Coroner frequently selected for his subservience, and in Wales they were frequently of English origin. The Assize Rolls contain a great quantity of valuable genealogical information, going back for many generations. Unfortunately, the proofs of this species of corruption are not to be found on the Plea Rolls in England. They were dealt with in the much-abused Courts of Star Chamber, which punished and controlled dishonest Judges ; and since Lord Halsbury, by his decision in the case of *Dr. Anderson v. Gorrie* (and other Judges) has deprived the public of the only hope of obtaining redress from judicial wrongs, by holding that Judges may commit any wrongful act with impunity, it is to be hoped that the Court of Star Chamber may be revived, or that someone will be found courageous enough to take his case up to the House of Lords, and reverse that infamous decision. Dr. Anderson was unable to do so, because Lords Herschell and Halsbury, to prevent the poor suitors from appealing, revived the procedure

of the Court of Star Chamber (repealing Magna Charta), and now every pauper litigant, which includes many well-to-do people, before he can proceed in the House of Lords is compelled to obtain permission from the Committee of that House, when counsel are denied to him, and the case is heard in camera, so there is little chance in these days of obtaining justice against a Judge. The criminality of the Judges in Dr. Anderson's case was so flagrant and atrocious, that even before Lord Coleridge, when conducting his own case, the doctor obtained a verdict for £500; but Lord Coleridge, according to the bad fashion of the present day, which is utterly illegal, of disregarding the verdicts of juries, set it aside, and his ruling was upheld in the Court of Appeal. It is indeed extraordinary that Lord Herschell, who invented the gagging process in the House of Lords, Lord Coleridge, and four of the Judges of the Court of Appeal who took part in this judgment, all died within a very short period afterwards. Amongst the Judges of the time of Kings John and Henry III. was Henry Albini, of Wychford, a most honourable Judge, but others, Nicolas and Henry de Verdun, Henry de Deneston, and Geoffrey de Gresley, who had also been Sheriffs and Coroners for Staffordshire, frequently acted corruptly. It would occupy too much space to consider a tithe of their misdeeds, although they affect many Derbyshire families, but there is one which bears so directly upon the Gresley pedigree, that it must be noticed. It was an action in 56 Henry III. by Geoffrey Gresley (the grandson of the former Judge) for the Wardship of Henry de Verdun, also the grandson of the Judge of that name. It shows that Geoffrey de Gresley, like Peter, his son, was a great genealogist, though apparently not quite so ambitious as Peter, who in order to grab the Wardship of his far distant cousins, the usual course of procedure at that date, had to go back to their common ancestor, Nigel, the Viscount of the Contentine (Nigel de Stafford, of Domesday). Geoffrey, in his pleading, only went back apparently to Nigel Albini, or de Gresley, his grandson. His claim was to represent Robert Albini, of the Red Book, whom he asserted was his *Abavus* (grandfather's grandfather). This plea, if it could have been established, would have taken his pedigree back to Domesday, to, in fact, the same person from whom his son Peter claimed descent—Nigel de Stafford. How was it that Mr. Madan failed to discover this remarkable claim? and why did not General Wrottesley give it in his interesting series of pedigrees from the Plea

Rolls—the only suspicious circumstance about it—and that is most unfortunate, and makes it appear as if it were a mere legal fraud, contrived to grab a Wardship, that Geoffrey de Gresley has omitted to set out his pedigree—step by step—as he ought to have done, and so leaves the matter in doubt; but, on the other hand, the defendant's guardian perhaps collusively took no objection, and seems to have admitted it, and he also curiously omitted to set out his ward's pedigree, or we should have had another pedigree proven of the greatest interest to this investigation—that of the Verdun's—a pedigree which is in great confusion.

There is a very curious circumstance connected with Geoffrey de Gresley at this period. He had been outlawed for many serious acts, murders and so forth, done by himself and in harbouring his sons, and at this very time when he was suing and being sued in several actions (in Trinity term of the 56 Henry III.) he was found to be in misericordia for not having become a knight. It is curious to see how one in default of this duty could be allowed to sue in the Courts. It would seem to indicate that there were two distinct Geoffreys at this period. It is very important to arrive at a clear conception of the matter in dispute in this case. It was a claim by Geoffrey de Gresley to be over-lord of Henry de Verdun, who represented a coheir of Eugenulf de Gresley by his wife, Alina, a coheir of Orme Fitz Richard, of Darlaston. That Geoffrey's action was a fraud is quite clear when it is seen that he claimed to be over-lord of Verdun, when in fact the property in dispute, although at one time having been held by the *Abavus* of Geoffrey, was only given to him in exchange by Eugenulf, out of part of his wife's inheritance, a bargain which had the sanction of the Abbot of Burton, from which it would seem that the Abbey were the lords next under the Crown, whose tenant would properly be entitled to this Wardship, and they were certainly the lords of Orme, of Acover and of Darlaston, from whom the wife of Eugenulf de Gresley descended. The Author (in Section VII., p. 147) has endeavoured, as Mr. Round has it, to throw a little light upon the history of Orme, of Okeover, as a descendant of Prince Edric, but General Wrottesley, without condescending to notice it in his booklet (Okeover, of Okeover), has summarily extinguished that light, as it appears to the Author, by a mistranslation, and by wrongly punctuating (always a dangerous process in dealing with legal documents) an entry from Domesday. He writes that "Okeover, with

its appendages was rated at 3 virgates of land, there was arable land for 2 ploughs; Eddulf held it at farm. There was a mill and about 180 acres of wood, and it was worth 20s. annually. The old manorial mill on the River Dove still exists, and must have been a valuable possession in those days." This is a mistake. The mill was assessed 9 years after Domesday at 4s.; but the greater error was in putting a full stop after "at farm," by which it is made to appear that Eddulf was the tenant of the whole estate. The words of Domesday without punctuating are, "*Ipsa Abbatia (Sancta Marie de Bertone) tenet Acover ibi III. virgate terre cum appendiciis terra est II. carucate Eddulphus tenet ad censum ibi unum molendinum*," the true meaning of which is, that the Abbot held the Manor; but Eddulph held a mill therein ("ibi"). Upon this grave error General Wrottesley has not only extinguished the brilliant pedigree of Orme, the Gulden, but has made him the son of the humble miller. He writes that "Very likely Orme was the son of Eddulf, because both names are of Scandinavian origin, like the other tenants of the Burton Monks, and there appears to have been a considerable number of Danes in the N.E. portion of Staffordshire." This is futile reasoning, seeing that the great majority of the English people were of Norse origin, which General Wrottesley wrongly calls Danish—a name only applicable to a portion of them—but it is not a question of very likely, for positive evidence exists of the names of the Burton tenants (most likely) of 1095 (the first year of Abbot Nigel), from which by collating it with the survey of 1114 (the first year of his successor) we get not only the names of 12 tenants, but the rents paid by each of them, which amounted to about 60s. The poor miller is not even mentioned. It is not very likely that Orme, who paid 26s. for the demesne lands, and who was, in fact, the Lord of the Manor (protected from state exactions by the church) should have had no holding at Domesday, but it is easily apparent why he was not named: nor is it very likely that Eddulf's tenure had been sub-divided amongst twelve tenants within nine years of Domesday, and there is not a tittle of evidence that he had died within that period; but in addition to the Burton evidence, the Tutbury Cartulary shows that Orme was of Acover long before Domesday, on the assumption that it was dated in 1086, "William Prior, of Tutbury, granted to Orme de Acover a carucate of land in Malefield, which he had held in the time of Henry de Ferrars (1066—1088), Eugenulf, his son, and Robert de Ferrars,

in the days of Herbert, Ralf, and William, his predecessors, Priors of Tutbury." A period which, probably, takes Orme back to nearly the date of the Conquest. General Wrottesley only accords to him the period 1090—1138, which is much within the mark.

It was the practice of the Abbots of Burton, as in other monastic foundations, to grant out their lands at farm on small rents to certain great tenants, who protected them by forensic services, and these leases were probably renewed at the deaths of each tenant; and of each Abbot or Prior: if made on the death of the Abbot, they would be renewed in the first year after the consecration of his successor. Hence the Charters now at Okeover, which the Author was fortunate to bring to light when he was privileged by Mr. Okeover to make a personal search there, were made most probably in 1150, on the consecration of Abbot Robert; they could not have been made earlier (see page 146, Section VIII.). That of Stratton is the more interesting to this enquiry, because it was attested by William fil Nigel and Wm. fil Herbert.

From the very early date of Orme it is probable that he was succeeded by a son of his own name; there is a long period from Domesday to 1150, the first date known of Ralf fil Orme. It has been asserted that Orme, of Darlaston, was a different person, but the Burton Cartulary, under which Acover and Darlaston were held, does not distinguish them. There is no difficulty in the fact that the property was divided between sons and daughters; this was the English custom, which the English Princes would certainly follow, and even the Norman Albinis adopted it. There is a second clear proof of the pedigree of Nigel Albini, of Gresley. At Domesday his ancestor, "Nigel," held several estates under Prince Richard (Orme's father) when he was simply called "Nigel;" amongst them was Wetemere. Nicolas Abbot, of Burton, 1188-97, confirms four bovates there to Nicolas fil Henry de Gresley, who took the name of Norton, and in 12 Henry III. he granted it to Roger, his son, except two bovates which he had given to Ralf (fil Philip) de Roucester in free marriage with Cecelia, his daughter (which Geoffrey de Gresley, then senescal of Earl Ferrars, attested). They, apparently, re-surrendered it to Robert fil Hugo de Acover, their over-lord. In 32-5 Edward I., Peter de Gresley and Joan, his wife, attempted to wrest Wetemere from John de Norton, an infant, apparently as heir of Nigel Albini (de Stafford), but he failed, for the Roll records that he

was in misericordia, the imaginary rights on which he probably proceeded, was given by William fil Geoffrey de Gresley, who gave the lands held by Richard, the Forester, in Kingston, to St. Mary, of Roucester. This was Richard, son of Robert Okeover, of Sheen, who had resumed (as several of his family had done) the name of Forester, or Savage, the ancient patronymic of the family, sometimes called le Gulden and sometimes Falconer.

The fact that Orme was a noble of high rank, and not the son of Eddulf, the miller, may be inferred from his marriage with the daughter, or was it the grand-daughter? of Nicolas Beauchamp, the Domesday Sheriff of Staffordshire, which again has an important bearing on this subject. Unfortunately the divergence between the views of the Author and of General Wrottesley do not end here. He has apparently assumed that the infant, Henry Verdun, was the grandson of Eugenulf de Gresley; but, even supposing that he was near his majority in 56 Henry III., this is quite impossible, for Eugenulf's date was quite a century earlier. His wife, Alina, having been the daughter of parents of the time of Domesday, must have been born a full century before the last Henry's birth. It was found by Inquisition of the 21st year of the reign of Edward I. that Eugenulf de Gresley and Alina, his wife, had given Audely and other places to Adam de Audely, and which had descended to Nicolas de Audely. Adam de Audely was the son of Emma, daughter and heiress of Ralf fil Orme.

Unfortunately Geoffrey de Gresley, in 56 Henry III., omits to give de Verdun's pedigree as well as his own, and it is very difficult to make anything out about them, because those persons who had no surnames of their own readily adopted territorial names, or those of their feudal lords.

Bertram de Verdun seems to have been the head of this family. He died in 1192, leaving a son, Thomas, his heir. Bertram was a Judge, of Henry II., and apparently engaged in the absorption of property. He married a daughter of Robert, Earl de Ferrars (as we have seen), probably after his banishment, and no doubt for her inheritance; but he had no issue by her. He seems, however, to have illegally obtained a portion of the Ferrars' estates, most of which had become vested in the Earls of Chester, and amongst them lands held by the Acovers, which came to Eugenulf de Gresley. There are scraps of suits between the Verduns and the Gresleys which are simply

incomprehensible, because claims are made incompatible with their rights under feudal laws. Very little is positively known of the history of Bertram de Verdun. French heralds do not record anything of his family. He was, it would seem, a son of Norman de Verdun, and General Wrottesley claims that he was a grandson of Bertram de Verdun, who held Farnham, in Bucks, in the time of Domesday, but this was extremely unlikely, and is, in fact, a mere guess, very improbable, not only from chronological differences, for it is clear that Bertram obtained a grant of it from Henry II. (as it was found by a jury in 39 Henry III.). If he had obtained it by inheritance it would have been recorded in the Red Book. Norman de Verdun, the supposed son of the Domesday proprietor (according to Thierry), was not a member of any great Norman family, but a citizen of the great town of Verdun, who was in ward to Richard de Humet as Constable of Normandy, and he held lands in Leicestershire, which Henry II. for some reason seized, and he gave them to the Earls of Chester. Certainly his property did not descend to Bertram, for he possessed none of it at the time of the Red Book, and then he had only a very small holding in Staffordshire, which he was apparently anxious to augment, and he would seem to have been successful in doing so.

General Wrottesley asserts that Henry de Verdun, ancestor of the defendant, was a brother of Bertram, who retained that name, but these two facts appear to be mere assumptions, unsupported by evidence; there is no proof that Bertram had a brother Henry.

Bertram de Verdun was an ambitious man, who wished to exercise the status of a baron, although he had not a sufficient number of knights to do his service, and he adopted the singular expedient of buying their suit of service (just as the monastic foundations had always done). Bertram sold the Manor and advowson of Sheen to Hugh de Okeover (from whom it descended to Richard Okeover, his grandson, just mentioned) at an annual rent of 36s. 6d., with forensic services, he undertaking to appear "*ad efforciammentum Curie*" on reasonable summons, and to one of the Charters of the Clinton family to Kenilworth, which partly related to the estate of Hugh fil Richard, two witnesses signed themselves as of the Court (Curia) of Bertram de Verdun, one of them was Simon de Cocton or Caughton, whom General Wrottesley had identified as his own ancestor, and his son, Walter, seems, for a time, to have used the name as his own. It appears

quite clear that the designation of the Court of any lord is a declaration that the user was not a relation. Nicolas de Verdun, "immediately" that he came into the possession of his father's property, which was in 1199, disseized one Robert fil William (an infant), who in 12 Henry III. called to Warranty Dionisia, daughter of Eugenulf de Gresley; he unjustly lost his suit for some technicality (common enough at that period), but was told that he might have a writ of Mort ancestor against Nicolas de Verdun; it does not appear whether he availed himself of this privilege. He was, probably, ruined by costs (this kind of justice is still common amongst us, costs are allowed which bar the action). There is evidence in the Stone Cartulary that Alina, the wife of Eugenulf de Gresley, had a bastard son, named John, to whom she and his sisters gave lands in Derlaveston, and General Wrottesley suggests that he was only illegitimate so far that his mother had married a second time within the prohibited degrees. It would be curious to learn if there is any ground for this suggestion; that the family should provide for an illegitimate member was very common in that and in all ages, but that does not give the slightest support to the theory of a marriage which was annulled. More likely the lady had been the mistress of some great personage before her marriage; the morals of the first Plantagenet King and of his Court were as bad as in the time of the Dukes of Normandy, but if there is any truth in the suggestion it might lead to important family history. The Stone Cartulary and that of Burton intimate that Eugenulf de Gresley was descended from Orme, of Darlaston. If this be true the coheirs of Alina may have been by a first husband, and John may have been his bastard.

It is hardly worth noticing that the absurd Gresley Cartulary makes Eugenulf the son of a mythical Richard Fitz Pagan, which apparently is a pure invention of the compiler. The over-lordship of the Clintons, proved by the records of 38 Henry III. and 2 Edward II., was no fiction, and survived the death of Peter de Gresley. In 7 Edward II., John de Clinton (no doubt Peter's medius) granted land in Kingston to another Geoffrey de Gresley and Margaret, his wife, whose position in the family has yet to be proved, for in face of the fact that Peter left only a female heir, it is by no means clear; and as there are no Inquisitions post mortem (simply because the Gresleys did not then hold in chief), it will probably require much labour and intelligence to establish it on a sound basis. It is to be hoped that Mr. Madan will bring out a new edition of his work.

This over-lordship of the Clintons is a remarkable instance of the tenacity of the feudal system, and it affords a third and most striking proof of the identity of Nigel de Stafford as Albini, for it can only arise on this hypothesis. Nigel de Stafford held Kingston and other manors in Staffordshire of the Bishop of Coventry. General Wrottesley has given a very imperfect account of them in his notice of the Red Book; he has apparently contented himself with contrasting their record with the Testa de Nevil, and leaves out of account the ravages made through the forfeitures of the family and the dishonesty of the Judges. He merely notes that Robert de Gresley then held Morton Tamahorn and Wolsely, and states (erroneously) that he was grandson of Nigel de Stafford, of Domesday, although Mr. Eyton had pointed out to him that this was morally impossible, and he is therefore clearly responsible for much of Mr. Madan's and Mr. Round's inaccuracy.

Nigel Albini also held Thorpe Constantine (probably so called from himself), his own family having been Viscounts of Constantine. It was this Manor which Mr. Round, "without hesitation," as if there could be any doubt about it, informed Mr. Madan, was held by Nigel de Stafford (one of his extraordinary barones of 1086). It was not very honest of him, when he appears to have been informed of the identity with Albini, that he tried to shuffle out of it.

The Clintons, as representing the Albinis of Catton, had a double representation. Osbert de Clinton married Margaret, the daughter of the senior coheir of the Barony of Cainhoe (that is the daughter of Simon Albini, son of William Pincerna, of Hocreton, by Isabella, sister of the last baron), whilst his father, Osbert de Clinton, married Maijory, daughter of William, son of the great Hugh fil Richard, lord of Hatton and Baddesley, the lord of the Shakespeares, who was probably the heir male of Prince Edric. This accounts for the fact that Simon Pincerna confirmed to Burton the grant of Osbert fil Thomas de Clinton of the Church of Adulvestra, another manor undoubtedly belonging to Nigel Albini, of Domesday, and it is another and striking proof of the descent of the Okeovers and the Hatton family from Prince Edric the Gulden.

Having devoted so large a space to the refutation of the great errors affecting Derbyshire history, the Author proposes with regard to himself to ignore the shoal of red herrings with which Mr. Round has so liberally bestrewn his path, and to follow that critic's original

proposition, to wrap himself in lofty scorn ; but he is grateful for the correction of the mistakes which Mr. Round has pointed out, and if found to be accurate they shall be duly noted, with as many more he will kindly supply. Three flagrant examples are chiefly recorded (from the Academy article), the omission of the name of Saswallo's heir, the mistake of Scobbeton for Stobbeton, and the mis-rendering of the word main for illam. To these he pleads guilty. The first was his own, and not his printer's error, but it was a mere mistake, and it does not justify the conclusion that Mr. Round has arrived at—that the Author had confounded the King's writ with that of the tenant's return. The truth is that the scribes, both of the Red Book and the Black Book, have frequently given so sparse and contracted a transcript of these records (the originals of which are lost), that it is not always very clear whether portions have not been omitted, and sometimes whether different fragments have not been intermixed. The words "Domino suo" do not conclusively show whether this was the King's or the tenant's writ, or both combined ; the King in his condescension sometimes calls his tenant his lord (great lords were frequently tenants and lords of each other), but the matter is of no importance. The word *Mando* is a word of command, never addressed by a tenant to his feudal lord ; and although the King may properly describe his tenant as his *carissimus*, it is not customary for the "chosen" one so to describe his lord. Mr. Round is not in any way excused for relying upon what he improperly calls "The official version of the Red Book." He ought to know, if he does not, that there is no official version of it. What he so designates is only the private work of one of the Record Office clerks ; it can hardly contain Mr. Round's error, for it should be a good book, since it was commenced and formed the life's work of one of the ablest men of the Record Office, the late Mr. Walford Selby. Mr. Round, perhaps in ignorance of this, has abused in *The Ancestor* this "unfortunate work," as he calls it, in his severest manner, "as one calculated to plunge the history of our counties into absolutely hopeless confusion." In the same article he criticised most unmercifully, possibly deservedly, another of his "friends," Mr. W. H. Stephenson, who was apparently so stupid and inept that he was unable to identify names which "did not present the slightest difficulty." His appointment to the editorship evidently was, in Mr. Round's view, a sad mistake. No doubt he should have had it himself. The Author has no sympathy with Mr. Stephenson, for he

is a "great critic," like Mr. Round, and quite as unfair in his methods. All that is now wanted is a "friendly" article by Stephenson on Round.

It was a terrible blunder of the Author to transcribe Scobbeton for Stobbeton; most painful, no doubt, to the honest critic, for, as every transcriber of ancient records would know, it was perhaps a little excusable in a foreign name, because the letters C and T are written exactly alike; but certainly it was more inexcusable on the part of Mr. Round, in his comments upon it, to endeavour to make the Author appear ridiculous by means of false punctuation. This kind of criticism is playing very low. General Wrottesley's mistake in the Okeover pedigree shows the danger of punctuation in legal records. It may appear absurd to great scholars, but deeds should not be punctuated—a deed of several skins is read as one sentence, without a stop, and the reason is lest rogues should alter the meaning; and the same applies to critics, for this species of criticism is dishonest.

Again, Mr. Round has acted with great unfairness in criticising the Author's reading of a passage in the Red Book relating to the subdivision of a knight's fee into fractions, to which he added this note (it was not, like Mr. Round's, taken from the Official Version, but from the original), page 316, Section II., of this work: "Note, it is not quite clear whether these last four knights did not jointly hold the same half fee." It was idle on the Author's part not to re-examine the roll, but he printed in the country. Mr. Round dishonestly suppresses this note, and tries to throw ridicule upon the Author for being ignorant that knights' fees were ever divided into fractions. The slightest examination of his work would prove that he was fully aware of this simple fact, and frequently expressed it. It was a malicious attempt on Mr. Round's part to disparage the Author and to vaunt his own superiority.

There is one charge, however, which the Author cannot pass over in silence. Being unable to offer any defence to the Author's criticisms, in order to poison the wells he ventures to charge him with having been guilty of "abuse;" indeed, like the charge of untruthfulness so recklessly made, he insinuated that it is "characteristic." The Author trusts that both charges are equally groundless; he has here shown the one to be false. He would be glad to know whom he has abused; if he has ever said or written anything untrue of anyone, or undeserved, he would be glad of an opportunity to withdraw, or correct it, but he conceives that it is his duty, in defence of his own honour, and not a matter of abuse, to publish the truth

when he has been wrongfully assailed, as, unfortunately, has too often been the case. This may not be palatable to slanderers, but it is a just punishment. It is amusing to read of Mr. Round complaining of "abuse;" it is his stock-in-trade, as a critic, for if he is not abusive he is nothing. Correcting error is not abuse, and if Mr. Round can correct the Author he will be thankful. It would, however, be difficult to point out any criticism of Mr. Round's which is confined to this. A specimen of his art may be found in the book he calls "Feudal England," where, under the name of Professor E. A. Freeman, he has heaped up (in his index) a column and a half of abuse in order to exhibit the Professor's crass ignorance, his confusions, his incapacity to weigh evidence, his assumptions, his misconstructions, his evasions, his distortions, and, generally, his mendacity and dishonesty. Most people would regard this as wicked and cruel abuse of a dead man; Mr. Round thinks otherwise, and he had the bad taste to present it to the Professor's life-long friend, the late Bishop Stubbs, in an address even more disgusting and nauseous to most men from its slavish adulation. If anyone reads Mr. Round's condemnation of Professor Freeman, who was a giant in comparison to him, he will not think the Author's condemnation too severe.

In order to defend himself (?) and to show that the Author's abuse is complimentary—Mr. Round seems to have queer notions about compliments—he drags in some garbled extracts relative to Mr. Sidney Lee. The Author has written very strongly, no doubt, about Mr. Lee's grossly improper and abusive treatment of his opponents, the Baconians, to whom we are immensely indebted for proof that most of the so-called Shakspeare Sonnets, and certainly the most objectionable of them, were the work of Sir Philip Sidney. Notwithstanding this (which is clear to every scholar who has considered the question), Mr. Lee writes most offensively in support of them, for which his book ought to be burned by the common hangman, with some of Mr. Round's essays. Mr. Lee, with Mr. Churton Collins (after the manner of critics) heap abuse upon the Baconians. Mr. Round has the folly to insinuate that the Author is actuated by revengeful feelings towards Mr. Lee because he has ignored his book. On the contrary, he is thankful that it should not be mentioned by that writer; but if it were not so, he is not so mean as to be actuated by such petty feelings, although, curiously, Mr. Round himself gives it as his motive for making a most cruel and

wicked attack on Sir Bernard Burke after his death, just as he most cruelly attacked Lord Russell, of Killowen, when he was in his grave. The Author's complaint against Mr. Lee is of a very different character. Mr. Lee, although he does not seem to be fully aware of their importance, has pirated his views in a very dishonest manner. Mr. Lee wrote a very poor and attenuated article upon Shakspeare for Sir Leslie Stephen's National Biography (for which he now seeks to have the credit though he only finished it when Sir Leslie threw up the task). He has added a number of facts, brought to light by the Author, which, with his unfortunate observations on the sonnets, now form a respectably sized book—the size being its only respectability—and although he knew, as appears from his own article, written for Sir Leslie Stephen, that the Author had brought them to light, as he was bound to give some one the credit of them, he publishes them as the work of Mrs. Stopes, who, when borrowing them for her own little work, had far too feebly (yet clearly) acknowledged her indebtedness. This conduct may be cleverer in Mr. Round's eyes, but it will not commend itself to any honourable man.

The groundless charge of "abuse" of this "great" scholar is bad enough, but Mr. Round is not satisfied with this, and he endeavours by garbling extracts to make out that the Author was abusing the gentlemen of New York, by calling them Mr. McDowie's stink pots. The reading may be a little obscure, for the printer has fallen asleep in giving a Mac before his name, but it is evident from the context that the Author was writing in defence of the gentlemen of America (the Baconians) against the infamous abuse which Mr. Sidney Lee and Mr. Churton Collins (Arcades ambo) in abuse of their privilege of critics, have endeavoured to heap upon them, and the Author was recommending Mr. Lee, when he has ceased hunting for the sterni-quilium of Halliwell Phillips, in Stratford, to apply himself directly to the unwashed of New York, whom the French would call Agapes, and we should designate as Hooligans, but whom the "Profit" Elija III. has denounced in more Biblical language. They would be a more fitting audience for him than the gentlemen of any country.

Lest any attempt be made to charge the late Editor of the *Academy*, or the Author, with having violated the Editors' rule of strict confidence in the matter of literary contributions, the Author desires to state that his only knowledge of Mr. Round's article is based upon his contribution to the *Derbyshire Archæologia*; it is easy to distinguish

that part which is quite outside the subject here in dispute ; if he has made any mistake Mr. Round can prove it.

The Indices of his volumes show that the Author, although he has made occasional references to individuals, has nowhere dealt with the Shirley pedigree except in a short note (at page 280) on the entry to the Red Book. There the Author only pointed out the differences amongst the heralds, and, without giving any view of his own, expressed a hope that proper proof might be found to explain and illustrate it.

That Mr. Round read the Author's book is quite clear from the use he has made of his arguments, of course without any acknowledgment. In this Mr. Round only follows the practice of his tribe. An amusing instance of this vice is to be found in Mr. Churton Collins' abusive article in the *Saturday Review* upon the Author's book, *The Gentle Shakspeare*, which is given in the 2nd Edition from the shorthand notes of the trial (pages 56 and 57). Mr. Collins, after trying to show that he had drawn his inspiration from several authors (who had not given it), was compelled, in answer to the question, "Who taught you this?" to admit "I learnt it from your book, and I gave you credit for it." The Author feels bound to admit (and he is not ashamed of it) that he does derive some amusement from roasting abusive critics. This feeling is common to many authors. Doubtless Pope's *Dunciad* was hailed by them with universal delight.

It is with sincere pleasure that the Author is able to give to the present family of Drakelowe a clear and noble pedigree in lieu of the pedigree faked up 300 years ago, possibly by some kindly-intentioned herald who only desired to do honour to the family ; but who erred egregiously. The heralds of that day, just as, unfortunately, at the present time, were not selected for their learning, but for other reasons, and they then, as they do now, propounded many absurd pedigrees. Amongst the latest monstrosities are those of the Lords Vernon (of Derbyshire) and of the Earl Marshall himself, both of which the Author has been compelled to demolish, but without, unfortunately, causing the "faked" ones to disappear from Burke's Peerage, and also, more unfortunately, without being able, as in the Gresley pedigree, to throw any light whatever upon the obscure histories of the families. The Vernons of Haddon are no Vernons, but the descendants of an unknown Frenchman, and the Howards are not of the race of Hereward the Wake. Is it not time that these great families should publish the truth in the current Peerages?

CHAPTER II.

THE ALBINIS OF THE PRESENT DAY.

It is the natural sequence of the last chapter that further consideration should be given to the history of the descendants of this great family, who are now surviving, and as an instance of the vitality of those of pure and high race, the result is very remarkable, for they are very numerous both in England and in America.

Although it was a tradition religiously preserved in the Willesley family that they were of this very ancient descent and it was believed in most fervently by the last worthy member of it, who resided there, the Judge, Sir Thomas Abney, yet, curiously, the exact truth was never known to them, for although they preserved the name and arms of the family of Albinis of Belvoir, they believed and doubtless were so informed by local historians that they had obtained the arms through the marriage of John Abney, of the reign of Henry IV., with the heiress of Ingwardby, whilst, in fact, there is no proof whatever of any such marriage and the remarkable discovery, related in the last chapter, that the Albinis were resident at Seile as late as the time of King Henry III. enables the deduction to be made that the family of Ingwardby were probably Albinis, who had, temporarily, adopted that territorial name and that in all probability their descendant, John Abney, of the time of Henry IV., reverted to their ancient patronymic.

It was not an uncommon practice for one who married an heiress to take with her lands the arms of her family; and the fact that John Abney, the first so called at Willesley, used the Ingwardby arms, gave plausibility to the guess that he obtained both by marriage; it may

indeed be the fact that he obtained the property in this manner, but if that be the case he was only marrying his cousin, and he was continuing to use the rightful arms and name of his family. In order to discover the truth it is necessary to trace the history of the Ingwardbys, and here we are met with an extraordinary obstacle.

The Abneys of Willesley, although many of them were lawyers, counsellors-at-law, masters in chancery, and judges of the great courts in Banco, never took the trouble, being apparently satisfied with the fictitious history of their family then extant, to examine their own muniments, and since Willesley passed from them into the hands of an alien race, who had not a drop of Albini blood in their veins, they seem to have been rigorously excluded from their ancient muniment room. Nichols, in writing his historical account (the best yet published), was not given access to it, but from the efforts he made to get at the truth he must have been sorely tried by his exclusion; in his day it would have been a task too difficult and delicate to presume to attempt to gain access to them but now that the new family have been in possession for several generations it should not be so difficult. But unfortunately it seems as if no justice was to be accorded to the ancient race—the present Lord of Willesley having given his word that the records should be available, and then as readily having withdrawn it. Perhaps he is meditating making a gracious return to the family of the muniments in which he possesses no interest.

Nichols deplored that the copies of the charters given to him supplied him no real help, and he gave up the task in despair. He records that in the list of twenty-one deeds the name was spelt in nineteen different ways, and he adds, "It seems impossible to ascertain from these evidences, though numerous, the exact shares into which the fee of Willesley was divided or how all were re-united in Nicolas de Ingwardby" of the time of Henry III. He gives an abstract of these deeds but it is so full of blunders and so badly copied from the originals that it is obvious, irrespective of the fact that the name Willesley was rendered in so many different ways, that they were the work of an unskilled transcriber; they are all about the same date, so that it is absurd to suppose that the name was in fact written so variously in the originals; but doubtless Nichols did not care to write plainly of the work of the friend—probably one of the family—to whom he was indebted for them.

Nichols was of course unacquainted with the true history of Seile, which disposes of the chief uncertainty.

There is great difficulty in obtaining any consecutive account of the Manor of Willesley from the fact that it was part of the King's ancient demesne (of which the rolls are lost) and consequently no inquisitions post mortem were taken on the deaths of the tenants. Willesley is mentioned twice in Domesday under the ancient demesne; when it was in the King's hands, it had been soc to Repingdon and Middleton; Earl Algar held 6 carucates and the King had then 2 ploughs in demesne.

In Wivelsley, 2 car. of land were hidable land for 2 ploughs, a soke, 2 soke men and 7 villeins, and one bordar had there 2 ploughs and a half, 16a. of meadow, pasturable wood, one furlong in length and one furlong in breadth. It is again mentioned under the land of Henry Ferrars; he held one car. of land in Wivelsley and land for one plough, it was waste, 3 villeins had 5 ploughing oxen there, T.R.E. it was worth 20s., then 10s. Aluric held of him; it is possible that the scribes, puzzled by Ascelin's name, gave it this variation. The King had also 2 carucates in Tickenhale, $\frac{1}{2}$ of one in Trangesby, 2 in Measham, 3 in Caldecot, which pertained to Clifton in Staffords., and 3 in Engleby.

Nigel de Stafford held 1 car. in Tickenhale, $\frac{1}{2}$ a car. in Trangesby and 3 bovates in Engleby.

Henry Ferrars, the King's Chief Commissioner on this Domesday Assize, had a delicate task to pursue in making this return, besides which the illegalities attending the King's abuse of his powers in favour of William Peveril were trifling, for here Ferrars was judge in his own interest, and he had not hesitated to violate the law by obtaining this portion of the King's demesne for himself, which he had transferred to the King's near relation, whom he calls Nigel de Stafford but who was in fact Nigel Albini, his own son-in-law.

The Albinis of Willesley possessed the greater part of these Manors, Willesley, Measham, and Engleby, until the last century, when they passed away from them, how or why does not matter, and at the present day they only retain Measham, which they appear to have regained by purchase at a recent date. Nigel Albini's portion shared the fate of his Barony, as detailed in Vol. IV. of this work, and in the revolution of King Stephen passed into the hands of the Earls of Chester, and from them it came back to the Arundel branch of the

Albinis and on the division of their inheritance this portion of it fell into the hands of Robert Tattersall, but, of course, the over Lord was still Ferrars and the last William Lord Ferrars, who died in 35. Hy. III. and Robert, his son, exercised feudal rights over the then holder of Willesley, who was Nicolas de Ingwardby, who appeared to have paid him 5 shillings per annum rent for his services. Robert de Ferrars, about 46 Henry III., when he was compelled to raise money for his enormous fines, assigned this rent (with other property) to the Buggs, money-lenders of Nottingham and Bakewell. Geoffry de Gresley, who was senescal of the Earl of Derby, in some way, of which there is no record, obtained the overlordship of the Ingwardbys — probably by virtue of his alleged representation of Nigel Albini, the Domesday holder of it; he was the elder brother of William Albini of Belvoir, and, of course, his overlord, if (as it seems) he held this property under him. To state the case at length, it would appear that the Ingwardbys held under the Lords of Belvoir, who held of the Barons of Cainhoe, who held of the Earls of Derby, the tenants of the King's ancient demesne. Under Stephen, the Earls of Derby became Earls of Nottingham; but were swept away on the restoration of Henry II., and only fully restored to their possessions by King John, who granted to William, Earl of Derby, the lordship of Nigel Albini, then partly in the tenure of William Gresley, of Drakelow. By attending to the somewhat complicated state of affairs it will be seen how the Lordship came to be claimed by Geoffrey Gresley, the son of William, who was the Earl's steward and who was deeply versed in legal chicanery. The first point to be considered is the mode by which the Ingwardbys became tenants of the Lords of Belvoir and the date of their tenancy.

In order to obtain this information it is necessary to revert to the vexed question of the origin of the Percival family of Weston in Gordano, which is most interesting to the author, since it is now represented by a junior branch of the Yeatmans of Stock Gaylard, of the County Dorset, Morgan Yeatman, of that place (his grandfather), having married the heiress of the Percivals of Weston, in Gordano, the chief of that family in England. English writers, especially Anderson (House of Yvery) and Drummond, have created great confusion by representing that the Percivals descend from a younger son of the Duke of Brittany; a great honour, certainly, but not to be too rashly claimed, and the history of the Ingwardbys, of

Willesley, appears to settle the controversy by showing that they were descended from one Waleran, a great tenant of William Albin, Brito I. of Belvoir. He was his senescal, and who, as Waleran D'Ivri, held of him the Manor of Hungerton, which included that of Ingwardby and Wivelsly or Willesley, places somewhat distant, but held under the same seignury; he is probably identical with Waleran Venator, Domesday Lord of Wardour Castle, and he is, no doubt, identical with Waleran of Tinchinbrai, who was resident there shortly after the conquest. At that period Robert Todini or Tony, was Lord of Belvoir, and William Albin I. did not come into possession of it until later in King William's reign, when, doubtless, he gave it to his kinsman and probably, very near relation.

The author, in his History of the House of Arundel, page 135, has suggested that the Percivals were, in fact, Albinis, finding how inextricably they were confused with them and with the Toesnis and the house of Ivri. Roger Albin (father of William of Belvoir) was himself styled "de Ivri," when he was Castellan of Rouen, under the Conqueror (whilst Duke of Normandy), and it is not to be wondered, therefore, that the Ingwardbys, the undoubted ancestors of the Abneys of Willesleys, were originally styled of Ivri themselves, and when it is found that as Ingwardbys they always bore the Albin arms and eventually resumed their name, it tends still more strongly to prove their identity. In Ivri they seem to have had another name, that of Angersvill, no doubt, like that of Ingwardby, adopted from their residence. The confusion which has arisen between the families of Toesni and Albin, through the marriage of the mother of Roger Albin with Roger de Conches, and which has betrayed some careless and superficial writers into confounding their issue, is also responsible, in part perhaps, for having diverted the Percival family from their true ancestors of the house of St. Sauveur. This error arose, probably, from the fact that Neel III., Viscount of St. Sauveur, also married Helena, daughter of Richard II., Duke of Normandy, who, herself married Richard, Count of Evreux (her first cousin), but whether the family of Ivri (ancestors of the Percivals) descended from this lady (as is most probable) is not yet clear. At so early a period it is very difficult to obtain evidence, but this is clear, that Ascelin Goel de Percival, the undoubted ancestor of the Percivals of England, was at times Lord of Ivri, which the Counts of Evreux formerly held, whilst at other times the Albinis and the Bretevals displaced them. It is but natural, therefore, that the

Albinis should provide for their relations whom they had ousted, and therefore it is that we find Waleran D'Ivry holding Hungerton and Willesley under William Albini of Belvoir; his origin can be very fairly traced. Ascelin, brother (or half-brother) of the Lord of St. Sauveur by Isabella de Bretevil (also called the heiress of Ivri, her father, Wm. Bretevil, undoubtedly held it alternately with Ascelin Goel), left a son, William Goel de Percival, who married Auberie, the sister of Waleran Earl of Mellant, whose mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Vermandois, brother of Henry, King of France, and by her had a younger son, Waleran, who was no doubt the tenant of William Albini, of Belvoir. William Albini, according to the cartulary, gave the Lordship of Waleran D'Ivri to the Priory of Belvoir, but this would appear to be of a different Manor, for it did not seem to interfere with the fact that he still kept the seignury in his own family. William Albini III. certainly held it and Robert, brother of William Albini IV., who died in 1223, also held both Hungerton and Wivill of him and at his death (in 1286) William, his son, was Lord thereof.

In 1 John, Robert de Wivill (apparently Robert Albini, of Abney) sued Wm. fil Richard de Harrington for a tenement in Bolington (see R.C.R., No. 9, m 15).

And in 4 John, William fil Robert de Wiville fined with John Fitzherbert for 4 carucates of land in Norbury and Rossington, this John fitz Herbert was the son of Amicia Albini, Lady of Seile, and Mr. Fitzherbert, now of Swynnerton, still possesses a charter of a culture of land "near Robert de Wyville's," which he had granted to William Capilanus, son of Robert (Hilary, term 34 H. III. R.C.R. No. 78), William fitz Herbert sued Thomas de Wilvelsly to acquit him of certain services demanded by William, Earl of Derby, for a free tenement in Rossington and Norbury, of which Thomas was medius.

Peck Supplement (Additional Charters, 4936) has a convention between Paul, Abbot of St. Alban's, and Robert de Belvadeia (no doubt de Tony) founder of Belvoir, of a grant, *inter alia*, of the tithes of Wiwell, with the confirmation of William de Albinaio, and his donation of the land of Hungerton (fo. 10).

William Albini III., gave the tithes of Wiwell and of Stoke Albani to Belvoir (fo. 79), and at fol. 130-b it is recorded that the Prior had in Wiwell and Hungerton a benefaction worth 12 shillings

per annum, which would seem to represent the true grant of the Albinis.

Although no explanation can be offered (so little is known of the Ingwardby family) it should not remain unrecorded that they appear to be identical with a family who were called de Angersville, from that place in Ivri, near St. Sauveur le Vicompt, who were Knights of the St. Sauveur family and of the Albinis. Leopold de Lisle, in his History of St. Sauveur le Vicompte, gives several charters which they attested. In 1104, Richard de Angersville attested a charter of Eudes, Viscount of St. Sauveur, of the Church of St. Martin's, of Geroville, to St. Sauveur's Abbey, in the presence of Ralf, Bishop of Contances, which William Albinis attested as chief witness; in 1136, Roger, the last Viscount St. Sauveur of his family, confirmed certain donations to that Abbey, with the assent of Algar, Bishop of Contances, which Richard de Angersville attested as one of his Knights (homines). About the same time, or a little later, a William de Aungersville attested a Barnstable Charter (see D'Anesie's transcripts in the P.R.O., fo. 133).

In the time of Edward III., Thomas de Holland had a grant of the Castle of St. Sauveur with the whole of the lands of St. Sauveur, Anvers, Angoville, and St. Maria du Mont, for a payment of 5,000 florins of the coin of King John.

In 6 John, Robert de Aungersville forfeited his English estates, including Ingwardby, which the King gave to Earl Roger Bygod, as "a Knight's fee in Ingwardby and Wileghby, in the Counties of Leicester and Warwick, which were Roger de Angersville with the Manor of Sproxton, County Suffolk." It was probably at this date that the Gresleys intruded.

In 7 Edward I., Nicolas de Angersville gave Roger le Brabazon £12 of land in Bucks, to which Laurence de St. Mauro, Ricus Fakenham, Galf de Langte, Kts., Hugh de Vienna, Thos. de Bray, William fil Nicolas de Ingwardby were witnesses.

In 12 Ed. II., John de Aungersville had grant of free warren in Ingwardby. He was probably a son or grandson of Nicolas de Ingwardby.

1346. In the time of Edward III., a Roger de Aungersville held $\frac{1}{4}$ of a fee in Ingwardby. This is probably the last mention of that name which the scribes of the exchequer found in their books and could not well disregard.

1399. Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, held $\frac{1}{4}$ of a fee there by descent from the Earls of Lancaster, to whom Henry III. gave the possessions of the Ferrars.

Of course there may have been several manors in Ingwardby which may have been held contemporaneously by two distinct families of this name, but the charter of 7 Edward I., of Nicolas de Aungersville, which is attested by William fil Nicolas de Ingwardby, and the grant of free warren to John de Angersville in 12 Ed. II., seem to indicate that these families were identical, and that they took the double names of Angersville and Ingwardby from their Lordships in Ivri and in England under the Albinis of Belvoir. It is, perhaps, dangerous to identify them, certainly, but William de Ingwardby, son of Nicolas, had a son Nicolas, upon whom he settled the Manor of Wivelsly in 3 Ed. III., with remainder to his sons, William, John, Nicolas, Philip, and Thomas, in succession, so that the family of de Aungersville was well represented by them. If they were not identical it will have to be shown how the de Aungersvilles came to dispossess them, and then, how the Ingwardbys succeeded again to their estates—a double difficulty which it is as well to avoid.

The following Charters, numbered as in that work, are taken from Nichol's Leicester, from which he was unable to draw any satisfactory meaning. It would be very difficult to place much reliance upon them, or to attempt to interpret them.

(1) Michael de Wivelsley, *father* of Michael de Wivelsley, granted to Alice, his daughter, two virgates in Wivelsley, which Lecia, his sister, formerly held, 12 shillings service to him as Lord of the Fee.

T., Ralf de Labache, William de Havenet (? Hastencost), John de Hartshorn, Ralf Pinc of Packington, Helya de Acthorpe, Roger le Pechur de Appleby, Henry fil James de Wivelsley and Roger his brother.

(2) Isabel de Kareltona, widow of Ralf de Brocton, to Alice, her daughter, three rods of land in Wivelsley and half the mill and of Crosmead and 18d. rent, with the housebote and haybote in the wood of Ede in Wivelsly.

T., Sir Galf de Appleby, Sir Ralf Grim, Walter de Stretton, Henry de Hartishorne, Ralf de Tykenhall, Peter de Durandsthorpe, Osbert de Seyle, Roger Pechur de Appleby, Roger Grassus de Appleby,

Mich. de Wivelsley. (This lady, Isabel de Kareltona, would appear to have been the wife of Michael de Wivelsly.)

(4) Sir Wm. Hastencoft to Peter de Sandford, in free marriage with Alice, daughter of Michael de Wivelsly, one virgate there.

T., Nicolas de Ingwardby, Roger de Blund, Wm. de Meysham, Elia de Octorpe, Peter de Durandsthorpe, Roger de Somerville, Abel de Smythesby.

(5) St. Martin, 46 H. III., Robert de Ferrar, son of William, Earl of Derby, grant of 5/- rent, which he paid him for land in Wyvelsly to Nicolas de Ingwardby.

T., Sir John de Sulney, Robert de Meleburn, Wm. de Meysham, Kts., Robert de Stretton, Rector of Duffield, Roger de Luvetot, Stephen de Myners, Roger de Somerville, William Hanselin.

(The difficulty in accepting this Charter is that at this date Robert Ferrars was mortgaging this property to the Buggs, and that Nicolas de Ingwardby had held it of Earl William, Robert's father.)

(5) Alice fil Michael de Wivelsly, in her widowhood, to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia, his wife, 2 bovates, which *William, his father*, gave her, and one bovat which William Havrincot gave her, except the toft and croft and four acres, one of which was given by a certain Edith de Lavedi to the Chapel of Willesley, and three acres which she gave to Michael fil William, the miller of that vill.

T., Sir William de Meysham, Kt., John Grein, Roger de Somerville, William fil Henry de Hortishorne, William Bertram, of the same William, son of the Lord of Meysham, Milo de Meilt, Ralf le Botiler de Packington, Rich. de Durandsthorpe, Roger Blunt, de Wivelsly, Hugo de Stretton, Wm. le Poverous de Octorpe.

(6) Lecia fil Michael de Wyvelsly, in her widowhood, to Nic. de Ingwardby and Cecelia, his wife, $\frac{1}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Mill of Wyvelesly, of her inheritance after the death of Michael de Wyvelsly.

T., Wm. de Meysham, Roger Blund de Wyvelsly, Ralf le Boteler de Packington, Roger ad Gardinum, Adam Bercazio, Wm. fil Roger Blund de Wivelsly.

(In 10 and 11 Ed I., there was an Assize to ascertain whether Michael de Wivelsly, father of Letice, wife of Geoffrey de Woodcote, and Isabella ux Hy. de Packington, was seized of 2 virg. in Wivelsly, which Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia, his wife, then held.)

(7) Roger Blund de Wyvelsly, with the assent of Nicola, his wife, granted to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia $\frac{1}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Mill

of Willesley, which he had of the dower of the said Nicola his wife, same witnesses.

Roger le Blund is called Henry in the Assize Roll of 13 H. III.

(10) Galf de Wodecote and Lecia, his wife, Henry de Packington and Isabella, his wife, to same a third part of Hulmo, and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Mill of the Wye. (This possibly is dated by the fine of St. John, B. 24 E. 1., presently mentioned.)

(11) Galf de Wodecote and Henry de Packington, with the assent of Lecia and Isabella, their wives, gave land to Wm. fil Roger le Blund, of Wyvelsley, brother of their wives, which Nicola, mother of Lecia, held in dower.

T., John le Sauvage, Wm. fil Elias de Octorpe.

(12) Henry de Packington, with the assent of Isabella, his wife, granted to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia, his wife, one-third of one-half of Holm, which had descended by inheritance to the said Isabel, one-third of half of Holme, which he bought from Geoffry de Wodecote and Lecia, his wife, and the whole right which Geoffry and Lecia had in one-third of one-fourth of the mill and poole.

T., Sir Wm. Meysham, Kt., Roger de Somerville, William, son of the Lord of Meysham.

(13) Geoffry de Wodecote, with the consent of Lecia, gave to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia a toft and croft which descended by inheritance to the said Lecia after the death of Alice, daughter of Michael.

(15) St. Barn., 14 E. 1. Johanna, widow of Nic. de Wermundsworth, granted land to Nicolas and Cecelia.

(17) Nic de Hinguerby and Cecelia, his wife, granted to William his son, and Albreda, his wife, and the heirs of William land which Thomas Muriel held in Willesley, and the wood near the Brueram of Meysam, which Galf de Wodecote and Lecia, his wife, had, and his own watermill and the whole of the offspring of their tenants of Wivelsley and Packington.

T., William de Meysam, Galf de Wodecote.

(18) Rich. Hassard and Alice, his wife, grant to William de Ingwardby and Albreda, his wife, rights in the wood of Willesley, which could descend to Alice of the inheritance of Isabella, her mother.

(23) St. Luke, 7 Ed. III. William de Ingwardby to Nich. de

Ingwardby, his father, and Isabella, his wife, his rights in the Manor of Wivelsley and five virgates in Packington for their lives.

T., Sir Wm. de Staunton, Kt., William de Bredon, William de Hirland, Robert de Schepeye.

(24) St. Gregory, 11 Ed. III. Settlement of the Manor of Sidenfen to Robert de Touk, Kt., and Edith, his wife, with remainders to his sons John, Walter, and Robert, successively in tail.

(25-6) 19 and 23 Ed. III. Alice, fil and heir John Ingwardby, widow of William Sheyl, to John, their son.

(28) Fine, 1350. Pur. B.V.M. John de Touk and Robert de Touk, and Catherine, daughter of Wm. Curties, of the Manor of Potlock, in tail.

(29) 43 Ed. III. William de Ingwardby, grant to John Charnals, of Swarkeston, all his lands in Derby.

(30) 51 Ed. III. Alice, fil and heir Nicolas de Ingwardby, of Othorpe, Wo. of Wm. de Barton, of Othorpe, grant to Wm. de Scheyle, of Othorpe, and Alice, his wife, of her right to lands after the death of Nicolas, her father, which Geoffry Elys and John Ingwardby held.

(33) Egid Epis., 22 Rich. II. John de Scheyle, fil and heir William de Scheyle, of Othorpe, and Alice, his wife, gave to William Ingwardby, Lord of Willesley, all he had in Othorpe.

(19) 11 E. II. Osbert de Stretton to Wm. de Ingwardby and Robert, his son, a toft and a virgate.

T., John Grim, of Heccote.

(20) 7 E. III. John le Savage, of Othorpe, and William and Albreda de Ingwardby, and Nicolas their son, a place in the waste of Othorpe.

(13) 19 E. III. John fil John de Ingwardby and Alice fil and heir, John, the wife of William Seile, of Othorpe, and John, son of the said William.

(14) 24 Ed. III. and 43 E. III. William de Ingwardby grants all his lands to John Charnels, of Swarkeston.

(15) 16 R. II. Alice, widow of John Seile, and John, their son.

From the Inquisition of William, Earl of Derby, 35 H. III, it appears that Nicolas de Ingwardby then held land of him in Othorpe, which he had recently granted to Osbert de Stretton, descended from William fil Walchelin.

In 46 Henry III. Robert de Ferrars, son of William, late Earl of

Derby, released to Ralf Bugg two rents from Repingdon, including the rent of Nicolas Ingwardby.

T., Thos. de Ferr, Stephen de Mewkers, William de Rolleston, John de Mo, in Nottingham, John de Leyke, Galf de Jorge. (Charter of the Hon. H. J. Coke, at Longford, No. 38.)

In the same collection, Charter No. 44 is a Charter of Richard de Hanley to Ralf Bugg fil Rad de Nottingham of John Absolom's land in Boythorpe, probably obtained under the same Charter.

In 53 Henry III. Roger le Blund was in^{mia} ats John de Ingwardby concerning a fosse in Willesley. At the same date Roger le Blund disseized Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecile his wife of land in Wyvesly, and in Assize Roll 53 Hy. III., when it was tried whether Hy. le Blund (? Roger) and Nicola his wife had disseized William de Ridware of land in Wyelsly, and one-fourth of the mill.

(3) William de Meysam granted to Nicolas fil John de Ingwardby (no doubt the party to the action of 53 Hy. III.) in free marriage with Cecelia Wycharde lands bought of Williaut de Harland in Wyvesly and Packington, with remainder to Nicolas fil Henry Wycharde, son of said Cecelia.

Geoffry Gresley covenanted and granted to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia his wife to warrant the lands he had of the grant of Wm. de Meysam, which was attested by William de Meysam, son of John Grim, Kt., Richard Prior, of Gresley, Wm. de Schepen, Nicolas de Verdun, and William de Hartshorn.

The meaning of this deed would appear to be that Geoffry de Gresley had previously enfeoffed William de Meysam, but by what right he could have interfered does not appear, it was probably only another attempt to grab an inheritance.

In 2 and 3 E. II. it is recorded that William de Ingwardby held Wivelsley of Peter de Gresley, and in a so-called Roll of Piers, Gresley, who died at this date, a most unusual document, of which it is difficult to obtain meaning, it is stated that William de Ingwardby held of him the Manor of Willesley, and that Nicolas de Octorpe, William de Ingwardby, and others, held land of him in Octorpe for one-fourth of a fee, and that William de Ingwardby had for life 16 bovates in Durandsthorpe for one-fourth of a fee.

9 E. I. Urian St. Peter sued Wm. fil Wm. de Meysham, the younger.

16 E. I. Sarah, widow of William de Meysham, was sued by Urian St. Peter for wasting his inheritance in Eyton. It would seem that the lady had also married Urian's father.

Pur. B.V.M., 24 E. I. William de Ingerby and Albreda, his wife, gave 40m. to Ralf le Mazon, of Breden, and Letcha, his wife, for 12a. of land and 2a. of wood, in Wyvelsly and Packington. Fine.

St. John B. Same year, William de Ingerby and Albreda his wife, by Richard de Belgrave, gave £20 to Galf de Woodcotes and Letitia, his wife, for 1 mess., 18a. land, 2a. mead., 4a. wood, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mill in Wivelsley. Fine.

34 E. I. William de Meysham sued Richard Oky, of Schayle, for having disseized him, and he was found to have held Willesly of Peter de Gresley.

7 E. II. Nicolas, son of William Ingwardby, sued concerning land at Chatsworth, in which action William Abney is mentioned. (Probably ancestor of William Abney, of Hope, 4 R. II.)

13 E. II. Wm. Ingwardby attested a charter of John de Faldsworth and Johanna, his wife, to Wm. de Stony Staunton, and in 14 E. II., with Nicolas, his son, he attested a charter of Johanna, sister and co-heir of Ranulf de Stony Stanton, to William de Stanton Harald, of the rights which he held of Matilde, her sister, and of John de Stanton. She re-married Sir Hugh Peveril, of Paston.

18 E. II. Robert de Ingwardby gave the Manor of Wyvelsly to William de Ingwardby for life, rent, a rose. Fine.

1 E. III. William de Ingwardby assessed for £4, land in Willesly.

Hil. 3 E. III. William de Ingwardby granted to Thomas de Barbey cap., the Manor Wivelsly and 5a. in Packington, for himself for life, remainder to Nicolas, his son, remainder to William, son of Nicolas, in tail, remainder to his brothers, John, Nicolas, Philip, and Thomas, successively in tail. Fine.

34 Edward III. William Ingwardby attested a charter of Elias Verdun, of Foremarc (his brother-in-law).

45 Edward III. Suit respecting Edinghale, by the co-heirs of Robert de Touk. William Ingwardby was the representative of Matilda, daughter and co-heir of Walter de Touk, who died 17 E. III.

Sir Thomas Abney, the Judge, who died 1750, still possessed this property.

It may be safely concluded that the family of Ingwardby of Willes-

ley held that Manor from the time of Henry III., when Nicholas fil John held it, until the reign of Edward III., when (in 45 of that reign) William, the 4th in descent from the first John, conveyed his estates, in trust, to John Charnels. This is absolutely proven; but the exact descent of the first-named John from Waleran D'Ivri is at present unknown, and the relationship of John Abney, who, in the time of Henry IV., is found seated at Willesley, is also in doubt. Nichols writes of the marriage of the two daughters and co-heirs of William de Ingwardby to John Abney and Thomas de Stoke, but he fails to give any evidence of it, and it would appear to be a mere guess. Now, when it is remembered that the families of Stoke and Abney are found side by side at Abney, in the Peak, and that the name of Stoke is probably only the other name of an Albini of Stoke Daubeigni, no great weight can be given to the suggestion, and until proper access is given to the Abney family muniments, which it is believed are still at Willesley, it will be safe, perhaps, to discard the suggested marriage and to adopt the belief that the name of Abney was the true name of the Ingwardbys, who dropped that name in order to resume their own.

The Charter of William de Meysam, which was confirmed by that of Geoffry Gresley, if it could be relied upon, proves tolerably clearly, as Nichols points out, from the evidence, that Nicolas de Ingwardby married Cecilia, daughter of William de Meysam, who was the widow of Henry Wychard, but it does not assist in the enquiry as to the origin of Nicolas, unless something can be gathered from the Meysam History. It is to be observed that Sir William does not give her any hereditary property, but only that which he purchased from Sir William de Hastenot, who was probably the grantor of the Charter No. 3, preserved by Nichols. This Charter was attested by both Nicolas Ingwardby and William de Meysham, and was merely relative to the grant of land by Sir William Hastencoft on the marriage of Alice, daughter of Michael de Wivelsly with Peter de Sandford—the relationship of the parties does not appear.

The interest of Nicolas Ingwardby seems to be confined to the fact that William, his son and heir, was married to another daughter of Michael de Wivelsly, whose proper name was de Stretton.

In 32 H. III., Roger de Stoke and John Rescuchan gave 4m. for the lands of William de Hastenot for a year and a day which possibly

dates his charter. Hastenot or Hastencoft, is not a Derbyshire name, nor does it appear that he had any connection with Willesley.

Nor is anything known of Michael de Wivelsly, except what appears in Nicholas' charters, No. 1. No knightly family of that name appears in Derbyshire feudal records and it would seem that he was only the Miller of Willesley, who left four daughters, whose fragments of his inheritance were purchased by Nicolas Ingwardby, by whom or by whose ancestors, probably, they had been granted.

Very little concerning William de Meysam or his family, appears in Derbyshire records, probably there were two of the name, both knighted. The first William de Meysham is mentioned as a Knight Juror in several actions, from 5 John to the latter part of Henry III. In 36 Henry III., he fined £10 not to be put upon Assizes. In 50 of that reign, William fil William de Meysam appears in a suit, and there was another William de Meysham, son of Sir John Grim, Kt., who attested Geoffrey Gresley's charter. Geoffrey was his relation by marriage. William had also a son named John—possibly John Grim, Kt. His widow would appear to have married Robert de Montealto, for there a suit respecting this lady's dower, in 10 E. I., to which John Meysham was a party.

48 H. III. William de Meysham sued Beatrice Basset concerning land in Magtoa? and Urian St. Peter, in 53 H. III., concerning land in Eyton. One Margerie Comyn seems to have had an interest in his land at Meysham, but how or why is unknown.

The most important fact relative to Sir William de Meysam is that he gave the Manor of Parva Seile, which he held of Ferrars, when he is described as the son of Ralf de Meysam, in free marriage with his eldest daughter, Godehunda, to William fil Robert de Appleby, with a park, a mill, and a wood called Woodlondes. He also gave the homage and services of William, heir of William de Appleby and the heir of Osbert fil Lucian, of Parva Seile.

There is a beautiful Charter of the Abbot of Miravale in the Sloane MSS. (Additional Charter, No. 5.992), undated, with a fine seal of the Abbot, by which he warranted Henry fil William de Appleby and his heirs against any services which William de Meysam or his heirs might exact from him. It was attested by Sir Thomas de Audavile, Rector of Appleby, William, Rector of Stretton, Rich. fil Peter de Durandsthorpe, and Helya de Octorpe. From this it may safely be inferred that the true name of this Measham family was

Seile. They were probably descended from Robert, of the time of Domesday, who held Seile of Henry Ferrars, who gave it with his daughter in free marriage to Nigel Albini. As it will be seen in the last chapter, Henry Albini held Seile in the time of Henry III., and no doubt this family of Seile held it of them.

The Red Book of the Exchequer records that William de Seile held it of Robert, Earl Ferrars, son of the Domesday Lord, and that his grandson, Ralf, held it at that time (1162). He was probably the father, or he may have been the grandfather, of Sir William Measham. Ralf Seile, son of the first William, married Annes Oilli, an Albini connection.

In 1186 Ralf Seile, having fallen upon evil times and being unable to maintain his rank, surrendered back his fees to William, Earl of Derby; but, notwithstanding, the acquiescence of his descendants in the Earl's deeds was required from time to time.

In 1192 the Earl gave half a fee to the Abbot of Miravale, and the Testa de Nevil (27 H. III.) records that the Abbey held Pva. Seile of William de Meysam for half a fee, and he of the Earl Ferrars, which appears to be conclusive evidence of the identity of the Seiles and the Meashams.

21 E. III. Wm. de Ingwardby held land in Seile of the Abbot of Miravale.

A further fact of no little importance is that the de Meysams bore the lion issuant of the Albinis. A doubt arises whether these Seiles, and especially the family of Othorpe of the time of Ed. III. and Rich. II., are identical with the family mentioned in the Certificate of Earl Ferrars in the Red Book. There is distinct evidence of William de Wiwell having married Agnes, daughter and heiress of Ralf Seile.

All Saints, 10 E. I. Galf de Woodcote and Letitia, his wife, Henry de Pakington and Isabel, his wife, grant to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecilia, his wife, 2 virgates in Willesly, which Nicolas and Cecilia had of the grant of Alice de Willesley, Aunt (Amite) of said Letice and Isabel, whose co-heirs they are. Fine.

19 E. III. Nicolas de Ingwardby and Isabella, his wife, granted to Richard de Ingwardby, parson of Stony Stratford, and Roger le Botiler, of Sherbrook, two Manors, 50a. of land, 8a. mead, 20a. pasture, and 30a. moor, and 11s. rent in Pronwyche and Chattesworth,

for themselves, for life, remainder to Philip, son of Nicolas, remainder to Albreda, his sister, remainder to Thomas, their brother. Fine.

It may assist the enquiry to give, as far as it is known, a pedigree of the Ingwardbys whilst at Willesley.

PEDIGREE OF THE INGWARDBYS.

John de Ingwardby, mentioned in Ch. No. 3
of Sir William de Meysham.

Nicholas Ingwardby (? Nicolas de Angersville), 35 Hy. III. had land in Othorpe from Osbert de Stretton (Seile), 14 E. I. grant from Johanna, widow of Nic Wermundsworth. Cecilia (?), daughter of Sir Wm. de Meysham, of Pva. Seile, Wo. of Hy. Wychard, of Seile, mo. of Nicolas Wychard, living 14 E. I.

William fil Nicolas, 7 E. I., attd. Ch. of Nicolas de Angersville, of land in Bucks. 2 and 3 E. II. held Wivelsley of Peter de Gresley (?). 5 E. II. settled his estates on his son and grandsons. (No. 19) 11 E. II. had gr. from Osbert de Stretton. Albreda, daughter and heir of Michael de Wivelesly.

Nicolas de Ingwardby, 2 and 3 E. II. Guardian of Isabella, dau. of Peter de Gresley (? his wife). 7 E. II., Charter concerning Chatsworth, to which William Abbeny was a party. 7 E. III. (No. 23), had grant from Wm., his son. Isabella (?), dau. of Thos Staunton, by Joha. de Stafford, who re-mar. Peter de Gresley. Robert (No. 19) 11 E. II., had grant from Osbert de Stretton, in Othorpe.

William, 3 E. III. 7 E. III., had gr. fr. Wm., his son. Matilda, d. of Walter de Touk, bought land in Potlock and Sidenfen. Nicolas. John. Philip. Thomas. Albreda.

William Ingwardby.

Alice, d. and h. (No. 30).

Alice, fil and heir, (No. 32) called de Ingwardby, (No. 25-26) granted land to her son, (No. 30) had grant of land from Alice, fil and h., Nicolas Ingwardby. William Sheyle, of Othorpe, 51 E. III. (No. 30).

John Sheyle, of Othorpe (No. 33), 22 R. II., gave all he held in Othorpe to William de Ingwardby.

John Sheyle (? John Abney, of Willesley).

Ralf Seile, who surrendered his lands back to his lord, appears to have left a son, Ralf, and two daughters, Constancia (possibly identical with Godehunda) and Agnes. The latter married William fil Walter de Stratton, who was also called de Wivelsly, and secondly, William de Wivelsly (quite possibly they were identical). She had a daughter, Edith, who married Reginald de Wivelsly. William de Ridware, the Earl's Steward, obtained, in 6 John, a grant by fine from Agnes and her daughter, Edith, in confirmation of the Earl's grant to him of Ralf Seile's land, which seems inexplicable and invalid, but it did not save him from being sued by the Seiles, who appeared to be a litigious family. Three generations of the name of Lucian sued Amicia Albin, who married John fitz Herbert, but without success; why they sued and why they failed is not apparent from the actions. Reginald de Wivelsly with Edith, his wife, confirmed the grants to William de Ridware of these lands, then in the tenure of Osbert Seile, son of the last Lucian.

Nigel Albin held Schepston (Scopeston at Domesday), Engleby, Tickenhale, and Trangesby, the history of all of which confirming that of the devolution of Willesly proves the identity of the family of the Abneys with the Albinis.

There is another Charter of Eda, daughter of William fil Roger de *Wivelesly*, in her widowhood, confirming the grant of the part of the mill and three virgates of land in *Wyvelesle* to Walter, son of William de Ridware, from which it would appear that Eda was daughter of William fil Roger de Stretton. Possibly she had only one husband. She would appear to be referred to in the Charter of Isabel de Karelton to Alice fil Michael de Wilvelesly, No. 2, given by Nichols, where the Wood of Ede, in *Wivelsly*, is mentioned, and probably she was identical with Edith de Lavedi, who gave an acre of land to the Chapel of Wivelesly, mentioned in the same Alice's Charter to Nicolas de Ingwardby and Cecelia, his wife, so that it would appear probable that Edith left no issue. Possibly, too (but this is a mere guess), she was identical with the wife of Robert de Touk, the younger, who died *s. p.* In a fine of 47 Hy. III., between William de Ridware (grandson of the first William) and Ralf of the Wood of Scheyle, another Robert de *Wyvelesle* is mentioned; his identity also is unknown.

In 53 Hy. III. Roger le Blund desseized William de Ridware of this share in the mill and the land.

In the absence of a proper search at Willesley, it is cruel to attempt to deduce a pedigree, and it is frankly admitted that this pedigree is tentative, or speculative, or worse. We find the Abneys in possession of Willesley in succession to the Ingwardbys, and we have to guess how they obtained it. If the guess given by Lysons does not seem to commend itself, it appears more likely that the Willesley Charters, of which we have scraps, shows a descent from a daughter of one of the sons of the last Nicholas Ingwardby. If it is remembered how easily surnames were adopted from territory, it is possible that William Shiel, of Othorpe, was one of the Albinis of Shiel, who acquired the Othorpe property from the Ingwardbys, or he may have been one of the Ingwardbys. The first Nicholas Ingwardby in the pedigree here given obtained it by grant of Osbert de Stretton, who was apparently descended from the Ferrars family in the male line; this was in 35 Hy. III., and it was confirmed in 11 E. II. to William Ingwardby, his son, with remainder to Robert, his son.

Epiph. 34 E. III. Henry de Standulp gave 20 m. to Henry fil William fil Roger de Meysham and Mabel, his wife, for a mess and 50 acres of land in Meysham. It would appear that it came to William Sheyle, who married the daughter and heir of John Ingwardby, and whose son was probably the heir, or coheir, of William Ingwardby. Whether she had a sister who married Thomas Stoke can only be conjectured. That pedigree is unknown. According to a Chetwynd MS., Thomas Stoke married Alice, daughter of Wm. Lee, of Stotford (who remarried Richard Archer, of Tamworth, most probably a near connection of the Abneys of the Peak); by her first husband she had a son, Thomas, who married the daughter and coheir of William Ingwardby, of *Willy*, co. Derby, 3 Hy. V. This is probably surmised from the terms of the fine of 1419, between John Abney and Thomas Stoke, with the Prior of Repton, concerning Potlock, which was a Touk inheritance. Robt. Touk married Ermentrude, a coheir of Robert de Stafford, according to a suit in 6 E. II., concerning the estate of Wacheline, son of Robt., Earl Ferrars, the ancestor of the Strettons, which had been divided between Stafford and Chandos. Walter Touk, son of one of the coheirs, had left three coheirs, one wife of Verdun, of Darlaston, who had left a son, John, mentioned in Charter No. 24, and another wife of John Bakepuz, who had left a son, William, and a third,

PEDIGREE OF ABNEY OF WILLESLEY.

Henry Abney, of Willesley, co. Derby, name corrected to George by Addl., 6, 183. Arms Or on a chev. gu., a lion issuant arg.

a

James Abney did not appear at the Herald's Visitation.

Maria fil Henry Milward, of Dovebridge. In the Milward ped., 1611, the Herald described her husband as son of Henry Abney.

- (1) Ann, ux. Hawsay, had issue George.
(2) ux. Eyre, had issue Wm. of Belton.

George Abney, of Willesley, 1619, did not appear at the Visitation, 33 Eliz., of the Middle Temple.

Margaret, d. and coh. of Michael Lowe, of Tamehorn, sister of Lady Bromley.

- (1) ux. Richard Adderley, of Coton.

James Abney, of the Inner Temple, 13 Jas I., 1656 was Sheriff for Derby; bap. 31 Jan., 1599, at Tattenhull, † 1693, 12 June, æt. 94. Estates specially entailed on this marriage.

Jane, d. of Ed. Mainwaring, of Whatmore, Staffs.

John, 2nd son.

b

Damaris, d. Thos. Andrews, Fellow of Christ Church, Camb., in 1661, 1st wife.

Sir Ed. Abney, D.C.L., M.P. Leic, 1690-8. Will dated 19 Sep., 1718, bp. 6th Feb., 1631. † æt. 97. Kntd. 1673, cut off the entail (?)

Judith, dau. of Peter Barre, 2nd wife.

Geo, 1st son, † s. p., 1662.

Sir Thos. Abney, Ld. Mr. of Lon., 1690. Will prd., 1721; had 11 children, all died s. p.

Eliz. Caryl, 1st, Mary, d. and coh. of Thomas Gunston, 2nd.

James, son and heir, his hist. is unknown, he was not buried at Willesley, with two of his sisters of the whole blood who were buried there.

Frances, m. 1686.

Sir John Parker, of Fermoy, Co. Longford, Ireland.

Edward Barr, 1st son, a lunatic. 1721. † unm.

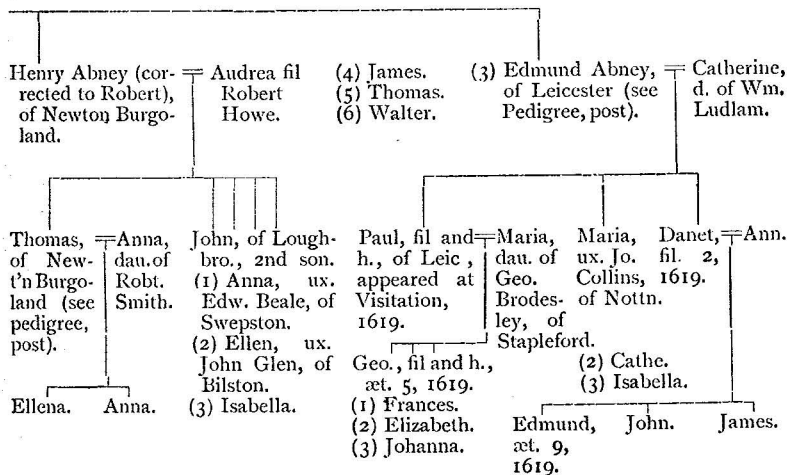
Sir Thomas Abney, Judge of CB., entailed his estates, in default of his own male issue, upon his cousin, Robt. Abney, of Newton, Burgoland. Sir Thos. left only a son, Thos., who left issue a dau., whose issue ultimately failed. Will invalid, because not properly attested.

Frances, dau. of Joshua Burton. Will, 1761.

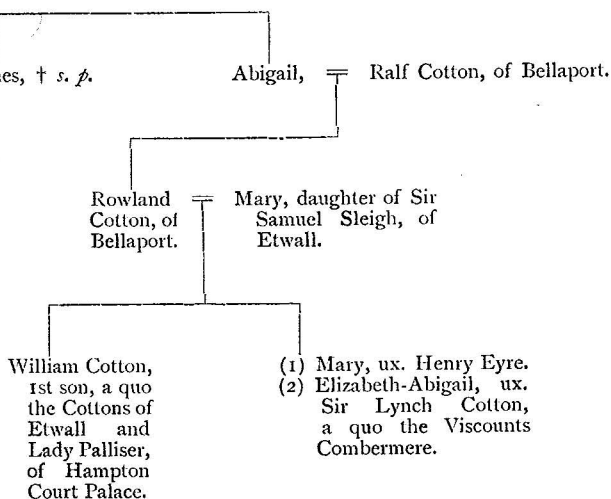
Abney Parker, adm. Gray's Inn, 1 May, 1705, a quo the Kellys, heirs general of the Abneys of Willesley.

(From Visitation of Leicester, Harl., 1431, Plut. LVI. D., No. 54, 8 A. o. 1 A. 31 (Wm. Camden), and Harl., 1189, 546. The additions to George Abney's pedigree, 1619, are from several sources.)

a



b



Matilde, wife of William Ingwardby, who had left a son, William. There is no room for a Stoke heiress. Here, curiously, a sister of Ermentrude Stafford, one Johanna, wife of Thomas Staunton, would account for the connection of the Ingwardbys with that family. This Johanna Stafford subsequently married Peter Gresley and Sir William Montgomery. It was probably her daughter Isabella, by her first husband, who in 2 and 3 E. II. became the ward and possibly was then the wife of Nicolas Ingwardby, a fact which probably caused Peter Gresley to intermeddle with the Willesley property; but if this lady was Peter's heiress, what becomes of the Gresley descent? Unless they came from an illegitimate son of Peter, they must find a new ancestor.

It requires a master mind to read the truth through all these conflicting interests; all that can be done now is to suggest that these several families who called themselves Seile, Angersville, Measham, Octorpe and Stretton, Ingwardby and Wivelsley, were, as their arms indicate, of the same race—possibly some through females, but all members or relations of the family of Albin of Seile, who seemed as ready to drop as resume their ancestral name. This is all that can be done in the absence of proper records. It is impossible to present any Abney pedigree from the time of Henry IV. to that of Elizabeth, because there is no evidence except that of a single monument in Willesley Church, half-way between, but there can be no moral doubt that the estate descended regularly.

As it was observed at page 391, Vol. IV., of this work (under Abney), the Albinis or Abbenys of that place, probably never resided there; it is a mere hunting district, very beautiful, but quite unfitted for the residence of a family, the nearest residence was at Stoke, both places being hamlets of the great Manor of Hope.

Very few mentions of the name of Abney are to be found in the district, after the heiress gave it to Rufford, and though a close search in the subsidies has produced a few instances they cannot be relied upon to form a history of the family. It always follows that some off-shoots of a family remain in the old district or claim an interest in it.

The subsidy of 1 Edward III. gives no mention of them, but that subsidy is imperfect, so that no direct conclusion can be drawn from it. The subsidies generally, for the Peak, are very defective but the Poll Tax of 4 Richard II., gives several instances; William de Albony

and his wife, Robert Abbeny and Arabella Abbony, are given at Castleton, and John de Abbeny and his wife, are given at Eyam (probably including Stoke).

The great subsidy of 10 Hy. VI., printed in the first volume, gives William Abney at Hope, and John at Willesly, and a subsidy of 28 Hy. VI., again gives John at Willesley.

A Forest Roll of 13 Rich. II., and one of St. Peter ad Vinel, 22 Rich. II., gives William Albini as a Forrester of Fee of Compana. In 7 Richard II., he attested a Highlow Charter; in 7 Hy. IV., a Hope Charter; and 10 Hy. VI., he appears in the subsidy of that year. He was succeeded by a son, John, who, 21 Richard II., granted Abney to John fil Richard Wilde. Both Richard Wilde and John, his son, were resident at Eyam in 4 Richard II., and there also probably resided John Abney, as before mentioned.

There is no proof of the death of William de Ingwardby and no mention of him in any charter after that of the 45 E. III. He was presented for non-suit at Castle Gresley in 2 Hy. V., but this is no proof of his being alive; these presentations were frequently continued years after a death, and from a later presentation in 37 Hy. VI., it would not appear that he admitted owing any allegiance to the Lords of that Court. These claims were easily made and as easily disregarded, the fine was usually twopence. If the Lord wished to maintain his rights he could sue for them, but the Gresleys did not sue; the main right was that of escheat.

Nor is there any proof of an Abney at Willesley before 6 Hy. VI., when, with Thos. de Stoke, of Tamworth, he fined with the Prior of Repton, concerning Potloc, probably part of the inheritance of Robert de Touk. Nor is there any hope of obtaining any evidence except from the Muniment Room at Willesley, which appears to be closed to the Abneys—the only family who are interested in it.

For want of access to those muniments, Nichols appears to have made a sad hash of the pedigree. No doubt he gave the best accounts with which the disinherited family could supply him, but it is so faulty that it is not worth reproduction, and again, most unfortunately, the Herald's account is still more unsatisfactory, only going back to George Abney, who died 1578.

There is a presentment of the date of 37 Hy. VI. against the heirs of William Ingwardby, which it was stated were then in the tenure of William, son and heir of John Abney. For some reason

the heir had not presented himself, and had no intention of doing so, because probably the Manor of Castle Gresley had no right of seignery over him, and unfortunately this would-be Lord did not attempt to enforce his claims by process of law. It would be very interesting to obtain the evidence which is derivable from these Court Rolls, notwithstanding their impotency. It was probably an attempt to revive the usurpation of a previous century.

The only piece of evidence available until the time of George, who died 1578, and whose Will is preserved in the P.C.C., is to be derived from the monumental inscriptions in Abney Church, which are now partly defaced.

Inscription on the alabaster slab of John Abney and Mary his wife, in the Chapel at Willesley:—“*Hic jacet Johes Abney . . . et Maria uxor ejus quiquidem Johis obiit primo die mensis Decembris, anno dni, millimo D quinto.*”

Inscription on the alabaster slab of George and Ellene, his wife:—“Here lieth the bodies of *George* Abney, Esquire, and Ellene, his wife, *whch George* deceased the first day of March, in the year of our Lord God, 1578, and the said *Ellene* deceased the iii. day of December, in the year of our Lord God, Movclxxi.”

These inscriptions are written around the edges of the slabs, and the parts in italics are so worn away as to be illegible now. Those parts are supplied from notes taken in August, 1662, by Elias Ashmole (as given by Cox's “Churches of Derbyshire,” Vol. 3, p. 519). See also “Vestiges Antiquities of Derbyshire,” by Thos. Bateman, p. 236, which has the last words of John's inscription, “milesimo Vo quinto” (1505).

Nothing further appears to be known of William Abney, of Castleton, after 10 Hy. VI., nor of his son John. John fil William de Abney, of Castleton, 4 Rich. II. (who is probably the same man), appears to have granted his estates at Abney (21 Rich. II.), to John fil Richard Wilde, of Abney (which was Richard del Clough's), and nothing further is recorded of him in the Peak. The Wildes were of Catton, as well as in the Peak, probably Albini tenants.

In 6 Hy. VI. John fil William Abney (Woolly's Orig. Ch., VIII., No. 3) and Thomas de Stoke, of Tamworth, fined with the Prior of Repton, concerning Potloc, but no evidence is known at present to identify him with his namesake at Castleton.

Prior to the reign of Ed. IV., probably in that of Rich. II. or

Henry IV., a Henry Abbeny, of Wombwell, in Darfield Ebor, held land at Castleton, in Hope, and at Potloc, but his place in both pedigrees is unknown. He would appear to be the eldest son of William. He left a son, Richard Abney, who served under Philip Leech at Agincourt, but he died ante 10 Ed. IV., *s. p.*, leaving six sisters and co-heirs surviving him. Johanna, the eldest, married John Ward, and had land at Potloc 28 Hy. VII.

Margaret, who married Thornhill, had one-sixth of the inheritance.

Katherine, in 8 Ed. IV., had another sixth, and another sister was the wife of Ralf Fox.

All these names suggest an earlier connection with Willesley, and with Abney especially, with regard to the families of Ward and Fox. The Wards were seated in the south, and took part in several Ingwardby Charters at an early period, 5 E. II. Sir Robert de la Ward attested a Charter of William and Albreda de Ingwardby. 23 E. III. Sir Robert died. Margaret, his wife. John, his son.

William de Barkston and Margaret, his wife, granted to Robert Abney one bovat in Abbeny, which William Fox, of Offerton, held of his father.

T., Oliver de Langford, Simon de Gousel, John de Bamford; Wm. Hally, Nicolas de Paddeley, Roger le Archer, Peter de Bamford, Robert de Hope, Cleric. (Woolly's Orig. Ch., VIII., No. 1.)

10 Ed. II. William fil Jo. Fox, of Offerton, released to Thomas del Clough a bovat in Abbeny, which Richard Vicar formerly held.

T., Rich. le Archer, Peter de Shatton, Rich. Fox, Robert Zouch de Offerton, Wm. Roe. (Woolly's Orig. Ch., VIII., No. 4.)

1399. Lease for 12 years from John fil Nicolas Fox, the younger, to Thomas Fox, of Shatton. (Woolly, VIII., 6.)

2 E. III. William Abbeny, first witness to an Eyam Charter of the Leyum's. (Woolly, Orig. Ch. VIII., No. 7.)

s.d. Robert de Abney attested a charter of Elias fil Helie de Thornhill, to Award fil Auwarde de Longnore, probably ancestors of the Wards. In 34 E. I., Helias de Thornhill attested a Hope Charter.

9 E. III. Richard fil Thomas de Thornhill granted to Nicolas fil Robert le Eyre, of Hope, his land in Thornhill, which Johanna, widow of Thomas, held in dower.

19 Rich. II. Eleanor, widow of Roger Thornhill, released to John le Ward and Margaret, his wife, land in Thornhill.

St. Aug. Epis. 4 Hy. IV. John Wele, of Taddington, and

William Clerk, of Hope, cap., granted to Margaret, widow of John Ward, junr., all the land they had of his feoffment, with the reversion of the Dower of Diota, mother of Margaret, to her for life remainder to John fil John Ward, the younger, and the said Margaret, in tail, remainder to Richard fil John and to Robert fil John Ward, senr., remainder to Hugo, his brother, remainder to Robert fil Thomas de Newton, remainder to Robert fil Hugh Hally, of Shatton.

9 Hy. 4. Robert Touk, of Sidenfen, granted to John Ward, of Shatton, and Alice, his wife, 5s. rent, which Johanna, mother of John Ward, held in Sidenfen.

T., Jo Firebrace, Wm. Archer, E. de Elkesly.

4 July, 8 E. IV. Katherine Abney, sister and co-heir of Richard Abney, appoints an attorney to deliver seizen of land in Hope and Castleton (which descended to her after the death of Richard Abney) to Henry Foljambe, of Walton, Richard Shakerly, Otiwell Ratcliff and John Coke.

10 May, 8 Hy. VIII. Margery Thornhill, widow, sister and heir of Richard Abney, granted $\frac{1}{8}$ of a messuage, etc., in Castleton and Hope, to Thomas Eyre, of Highlow.

10 Oct., 27 Hy. VII. John Ward, of Thornhill, sold land there, value £10 13s. 4d. William Haygh, of Castleton, cap., and Jo Huntly, of Smythly, Ebor, granted land in Thornhill, and Aston, in Hope, to John Ward, of Thornhill, and Johanna, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Henry Abney, of Wombwell, in Darfield.

23 Hy. VIII. William Fox, of Dalby in the Wolds, granted to Roger Foljambe his interest in lands in Castleton and Hope, which descended to him after the death of Ralf Fox and . . . his wife, sister and co-heir of Richard Abbney.

24 Hy. VII. Henry Abbeny was fined for default of service for land at Abney. He died many years previously.

Patent Rolls. 7 James I., p. 8, m5. (28 May, 1609. Grant book Virginia, p. 65.) Containing a notice of Henry Abney, whom it is very important to place in the pedigree. By that Roll Robert, Earl of Salisbury; Thomas, Earl of Suffolk; Henry, Earl of Southampton; Wm., Earl of Pembroke, and many others, obtained a grant to inhabit and plant in Virginia and to be incorporated with "such others as they shall hereafter admit to be joined with them, whether they go in their persons to be planters there, in the

said plantations, or whether they go not but do adventure their money, goods and chattels, to be one body perpetual, paying for such privilege one-fifth of all ore gold, etc." These shares of the Adventure would remain the property of the Adventurers and be handed down in their families. The names upon the Patent Rolls of 1610 are very numerous, and contain many Derbyshire adventurers. Amongst them Anthony Archer, Kt., *Sir Roland Cotton*, Captain John Blundell, Richard Percivall, Esq., Anthony Archer, Esq., Robert Bower, Thos. Waller, John Bullock, *Henry Dabeine*, Gabriel Archer, John Hacklute (Minister), John Harper, Cleophus Smyth, *William Gresley*, Henry Cromwell, Thomas Whittingham, Gyles Purselow, Sir John Watt, Oliver Cromwell, Kt., Sir Wm. Browne, Sir Christopher Willmot, Sir Henry Fanshaw, Sir Charles Morgan Sir Stephen Powles, John Merrick, merchant, William Cantrell, gentleman, Daniel Juckes, Thos. Culpepper, of Wigsell, Esq., Rich. Glanville, Philip Durrant, John Quales, John Wright Mercer, Robert Bateman, Peter Thomas, Robert Burgoyne, Robt. Pennington. And there are scores of others, which should interest American genealogists, as well as those of England; but, unfortunately, Americans seem to care very little for true genealogical work, and content themselves with two or three generations easily within their reach. The majority of American family histories are very poor things and utterly unknown to English readers; there is no excuse for this, for Americans have splendid opportunities of compiling genealogies, which are wanting in England. Some three or four years since the author, who had been retained in a law suit depending on an American pedigree, mastered the procedure; he found the greatest facilities in compiling pedigrees, which he detailed at the time in N. and Q., for the benefit of those having similar work.

The value of this evidence of the Virginian settlement is doubtful, for it was not until many years afterwards that the Abney family appeared to have availed themselves of the opportunity to settle in that State. At present the full connection of the Abneys, of Willesley, with the Adventurers of 1610, is unknown; nor has the author as yet been successful in identifying Henry Dabeine, no doubt Daubigni, with any member of the Derbyshire family; it will be seen, however, from reference to the Abney Pedigree, which the Author has been able to compile from English evidences, that the Leicester branch of the Willesley family remained seated there and in London up to

the very time that the Virginian family were well established in that State, and that the very unusual names of Dannet, Paul, and Abraham, besides the more well known names of James, George, Edmund, and Henry, were common to both families, and moreover that the American family bore the same arms—those anciently used by the Willesley family, which are the insignia of the Albinis, and which help to establish their identity; and this curious fact arises—that when the family commenced to rise in Virginia, they appear to have left Leicester. No will, here or in America, has yet been discovered in which the relationship is mentioned; still there cannot be a shadow of doubt that they (the Americans) are of the same stock, and sprung from the Leicester branch of it, or possibly some of them descended from the eldest son, James, of Sir Edward Abney.

Amongst the adventurers' names given above were several Abney connections. The Archers were seated in Abney, Derbyshire, and they were related to the family of Willesley through the marriage of Richard Archer, of Tamworth, with the widow of Thomas Stoke, who in 6 Hy. VI. fined with John Abney, of Willesley, and the Prior of Repington concerning Potloc. Roland Cotton, the second above named, was descended from the marriage of Abigail Abney, of Willesley, with his ancestor, Ralf Cotton, of Etwall. A daughter of William Gresley married Sir Thos. Wolsely, whose granddaughter, Ellen Wolsely, was the wife of George Abney, of Willesley, who died some 25 years previously. Distant connections, truly; but sufficiently near to suggest a connection between Henry Dabeine and the American settlers if, as seems probable, he was the grandson of George, who died in 1578, and the association of the Abneys and their relations with Sir Oliver Cromwell (no doubt the Knight of Hitchinbrook) and his son Henry, may possibly have had more to do with the Protector's kindness to James Abney, of Willesley, than the romantic story of the horse, Selim, presently to be mentioned). Evidently the Cromwells, the Cottons, the Gresleys and the Abneys were connected in the bonds of commerce and speculation, and must have been personally known to each other.

A curious difficulty in English genealogy has arisen respecting the Henry Dabeine who was an adventurer in 1610. Not one of the Derbyshire families supplies a Henry at that particular date. The Herald's Visitation, in giving the pedigree of the Milwards of Doveridge, give a Henry Abbeny, of the time of Queen Elizabeth,

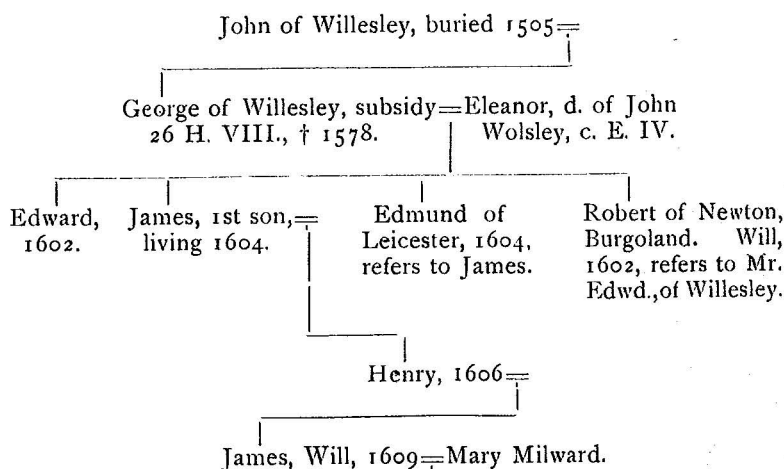
grandfather of Edmund of Leicester, who may have been the adventurer, and some of the Heralds' pedigrees of the family recognise this Henry (see Harleian MSS., 1431 and 1189), and state that James Abney, who married Mary Milward about that date, was the son of Henry.

The origin and meaning of this confusion may probably be discovered, and it may not have any important bearing upon the question, for in all probability the family did not settle in Virginia until about the time of Charles II., although of course as good Catholic Englishmen some of them were ruined by the vile murderer Cromwell. It is perhaps worth noting that George Abney, of London, in his will, dated 1663, bequeaths his silver tobacco box to his cousin, Richard Wynn. That he belonged to the Newton Burgoland family is clear from his devise of lands in Twycross, the old Albini stronghold, to his brother Thomas, who was then in London, but who subsequently returned to Leicestershire. This would seem to indicate that the family of Henry Abeny were making some use of their interest in the great patent of 1610, possibly by temporary leases or assignments, which eventually led to James (?) Darnet and Paul Abney taking them up and settling there in person.

It must not be forgotten that amongst the immediate relations of the Abneys of Willesley are to be found in Virginia the names of Cotton, Walton, Alton, Archer, Brown, Bateman, Carrington, Daniel, Durrant, Finnie, Gresley, Harper, Leigh of Henrico, Pursglove. The Subsidies for Repton and Gresley are very defective and give incomprehensible evidence in respect of lands. The first of Hy. VIII. is wanting, and none after 13 Eliz. are perfect, so that little aid in the pedigree is obtainable.

With regard to the name of the father of James Abney, of Willesley, the confusion of the heralds is not to be lightly passed over. It arises, probably, from the curious fact that the Willesley branch did not appear before the heralds. It is almost impossible to conceive that three different heralds, in different places, recording the pedigrees of two different families, should have fallen into the same mistake, unless there had been some foundation in fact, and the question whether the father of James was Henry, and not George, is further complicated by the Will of Robert Abney of Newton, Burgoland, dated March 10th, 1602. He appoints Mr. Edward Abney, of Willesley, his overseer. Unquestionably Robert Abney was the son of George, of 1578,

but who was the Mr. Edward Abney, of Willesley? Certainly not his brother, for he does not so refer to him—possibly his uncle, brother of George, of 1578, or more likely he may have been an elder brother of Henry, the father of James, who married Maria Milward. It has been quietly assumed that George, of 1578, was the son of John, of 1505. This may be true, and if so, there would be ample time for one, if not two, generations to intervene between James, son of George, of 1578, and James, who died 1609. There is no proof that these two James were identical. A suggestion that they were so can be drawn from the Will of Edmond, of Leicester, 1604. He states there that his brother, James, owed him £71, but he does not state that he was of Willesley, nor is there anything to show that this debt was the legacy left him under his father's Will. It would be curious if he should have left that legacy so long unclaimed, and it is just as likely that he had advanced money to another James, possibly to James, son of Henry, if there were such a person. The following pedigree would reconcile all the difficulties:—



⁹¹₁₄₈ 26 Hy. VIII. George Abney assessed for £20 goods in Stretton. Henry Morton, was assessed for Catton, Richard Viresend for Greseley, Thomas Saunders for Lullington.

⁹¹₁₄₈ 34 and 35 Hy. VIII. George Abney is assessed for £12, land in Willesley, Thomas Stretton, £5, goods for Stretton.

⁹¹₁₇₁ 37 Hy. VIII. The same as in 34 and 35, but the place Stretton is not mentioned.

$\frac{92}{174}$ An undated roll, probably of the time of Queen Mary, gives James Abney for lands, no place; Thomas Gresley for Gresley, and Sir George Gresley for Drakelow. Sir George Gresley died in 2 E. VI., William, his son, then aged 23.

$\frac{92}{177}$ 3 E. VI. Willsie. George Abney, in goods, 20s. No Gresley at Gresley.

$\frac{92}{184}$ 3 E. VI. Wylsley. George Abney, gentleman, goods, £20; my Lady Gresley, goods, £40, at Gresley.

$\frac{92}{199}$ 4 E. VI. Wyllesley. George Abney, £20, goods; Dame Dorothy Gresley, for Gresley and Drakelow, £30, goods.

$\frac{92}{292}$ 13 Eliz. Willesley. George Abney, Esq., £40, land; Gresley—Robert Gressly, 40s., land, and Dame Catherine Gresley, widow, for goods.

The last-mentioned George Abney is no doubt the Testator of 1578, whom the Heralds called Henry, whose will, proved 1578, is the first of that family which a diligent search has brought to light. It may be that George was son of Henry, or had a son of that name; he omitted to mention his son Walter in his will.

The strong probability for this curious evidence of the nonresidence of the Abneys at intervals probably arises from the infamous penal laws of Henry VIII., but why George should be at Stretton and not at Willesley in 26 Hy. VIII. is incomprehensible.

As recorded in the chapter on Abney (p. 429, sec. VIII.), Sir Edward Abney a nonconformist, signed the memorial to King James II in favour of liberty of conscience to all persuasions of religion and for taking off the infamous penal laws and tests and to the honour of the family their name is not found amongst the black list of Church Robbers.

The late Mr. W. A. Carrington, in his List of Recusants, published in the *Derby Archæologica*, under the year 1601, gives the name of James Abney, of Willesley, who contributed 25s. towards setting forth of three horsemen into Ireland, but he gives no recusant. No list of Recusants appears to contain the name of Abney. Notwithstanding the perils of the time they appear to have contrived in some way to save their estates (which their wills show how fondly they loved), but only for their relations to see them appropriated by strangers in blood who added the cruel mockery of assuming the family name for themselves.

The following Wills have been found:—P.C.C. Bacon, Q., dated 4 Jan., 1570. George Abney, of Willesley, in the County of Derby,

gentleman, made his will, which was proved the 7th Jan., 1578. "To be buried in the Churchyard of the Chappell at Willesly. Whereupon I Will that there be a gravestone laid, with the picture of me and my wife and my children, with the dates of our deaths." (Which wish was duly observed, and they partly remain to this day.) To John Abney, one of his sons, £20, to Edmond, one other, £40; Thomas, my youngest son, £40; to Robert, all the goods, etc., now at the house belonging to the house, with the appurts, wch I have lately given him in Newton Burgalon, in the County of Leicester. To daughter, Anne Hawsey, £10. To godchildren, George Whatton, George Vincent, George Hawsey, and George Abney, 10/- each. Legacies to servants:—Cisely Smythe, Ric. Fenton, Robert Smythe, Adam Durnell (? Dannett), Henry Joyse, Jo. Pkin, Mary Joyse, Anne Owers, Johan Smythe, Henry Martyn, and James Clystan. To the poor within the town of Wellesley, Ashby Pakington, Mesam, Okethorpe, Dunsthorpe, Ov, Sheale, Blackfordby, Boythorpe. His signet of gowld, with his arms graven therein, to his eldest son, whom he appoints Executor, the Earle of Huntingdon to be Overseer. Witnesses, Henry Edgall, Rich. White, George Starkey, and Wm. Ward, also Farmer.

The important feature of this Will is that the testator gives legacies to all the places held by the Albinis (his ancestors), some of which came to their descendants the Gresleys, who also claimed to be Lords of Willesley, and to have an interest in these places at that date.

P.C.C. Soame. (32) 27 May, 1609. Will of James Abney, of Willesly, Esq., proved by George, his son, the 7 April, 1620; "to be buried in the Chapel of Willesly, where my ancestors have formerly been interred."

To grandchildren, that is the children of son and heir, George Abney, and son-in law, Richard Adderly, of Coton, Stafford. John Wilson, of Guildford, Clerk, and Thomas Farmer, Hugglescote Grange, Gentleman.

To brother, John Abney, £4; the children living of his brother Robert Abney, deceased; two brethren, Walter Abney and Thomas Abney, are mentioned.

William Eyre, of Belton, his nephew, executor.

The Testator's desire to be buried "with his ancestors" at

Willesley, seems to indicate a longer connection than from the advent of the Abneys, which apparently was only about 100 years previously. His relationship with Wm. Eyre, of Belton, is interesting; it is not known how this came about. Nephew may possibly only mean kinsman.

P.C.C. Will of George Abney, of Willesley, Esq., dated 5 Dec., 1643; proved 19 June, 1646.

To his daughter, Elizabeth Abney, a lease of 21 years made to his brother, Alex Staples, which was excepted from the settlement of his son, James, with Mr. Maynwaring's daughter; his daughter, Bronthil, the tithes of Shakersham; son, John; grandchild, George, son of James Abney; my loving, good sister, the Lady Bromley.

My son, May, and his wife.

Money owing to Ann Stapels, daughter of Alexander Stapels, of Nottingham. £6 to Mark Wilkins.

P.C.C. Brook (1). 19 Sept., 1718. Will of Sir Edward Abney, of Willesley, proved by Thomas, his son, 22 Jan., 1727.

His eldest son, Edward, a lunatic, intended to make him one legally, but there was no time. In the meantime to continue and perpetuate so much as may be of my estate in my family and to my name for ever. He devised all his estates in Derby, Leicester, and Stafford, to his son, Thomas.

A legacy of £10 to the Rev. Dr. Hutchinson, of Packington.

It appears from the Will of Thomas, the son, that the estates in Staffordshire consisted of land at Edingale, but in the absence of further information in the Will and of Inquisitions, no account can be given of it.

P.C.C. (46) Marlbro. 10 April, 1711. Will of Sir Thomas Abney, with a codicil dated the 19 Jan., 1718; proved the 21 Mar., 1721.

£9,900, with £1,700 contracted with brother-in-law, Thomas Gunston; 3 daughters, Sarah, Mary, and Elizabeth, at 21 or marriage.

He mentions his brother, Sir Edward Abney, his sister, Abigail Cotton, Elizabeth Ashhurst, and Sarah Gunston, his nephews, Mr. Thomas Abney and Edward.

T., Charles Fulljam.

The Testator was Lord Mayor of London in 1690.

P.C.C. Greenly (285). 14 April, 1725. Will of Thomas Abney,

of Willesley Hall, Esq. (in margin, the Hon. Sir Thomas Abney, Kt., late one of the Justices of C.P.), proved 18 Sept., 1750, made before the birth of his son Thomas. "To be buried amongst my ancestors in the chancel of Willesley Church," his men-servants in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Staffs. to attend funeral. £10 to the Lady Abney, of Lime Street, the like sum to Dr. Hutchinson, of Packington, and Nicholas Charnels, of Sumerston. Mentions his cousin, Robert Abney, of Newton, and his son Thomas. His estate at Edinghall, in Derbyshire and Staffs., and his chambers in the Inner Temple to be sold. Wife, Frances Abney, and daughter, £1,000 each. If I have a son by my said wife he to have a moiety of my estate. If I have no son, all to my cousin, Thomas Abney, of Newton, and his heirs for ever. Proved, with regard to personalty, by the affidavit of Nathaniel Snaith and Henry Hart to be in the hand-writing of Sir Thomas Abney. This will was not attested and therefore was invalid as regarded real estate.

The testator, having neglected to make a will for 25 years, he was cut off suddenly by jail fever, caught whilst trying prisoners at the Old Bailey.

P.C.C. Cheslyn (158). 19 May, 1761. Administration with the Will of Dame Frances Abney, widow of Sir Thomas, Judge of the C.P. of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. She mentions her brother, Mr. Burton, and his son Blisset, but she devises her estate in blank, omitting the name of her devisee, and failing to appoint an executor, administration was granted to Thomas Abney, her son and only child.

Thomas Abney, of Willesley, the last male of that house, by his Will, dated 23 Feb., 1789, disposed of several legacies to his friends, gave all his personal estate to his wife, and appointed her and his friend, Thomas Paget, his executors, thus leaving his real estate to follow the entail or to go to his daughter and heiress. Probably it was settled upon her marriage, but such a settlement has never been produced. The settlement of 1844 cannot have had any existence at the time of the marriage, and must have been made long subsequently.

Nothing appears to be known of the present history of its members until the time of Cromwell, when James Abney, of the Inner Temple (admitted 13 James I.), was the lord; he lived to the age of 94 and died in 1693. The best that can be said of him was that he had discretion, or prudence enough to keep his estates through that

troublesome period, when it must have been a difficult task. Certainly he was not troubled by Cromwell, for he was not required to compound for his estates. It is said that he was a cavalier, and aided in the defence of Ashby Castle, where Cromwell took him prisoner. There is a curious story that Oliver allowed him to ride away unharmed because he had boasted, apparently in his hearing, that he had such command over his horse, Selim, that he would answer to his call. Cromwell replied, "If your horse will come at your call, I will give you your liberty." He gave him, it is said, the chance, and the horse came. Cromwell was as good as his word (so unlike the man) and set his master at liberty, instead of murdering him in cold blood, as was his custom, and curiously he afterwards, in 1656, appointed him his sheriff. This horse is well known; his picture, by Kneller, is at Willesley; in honour of this great event, Mr. Abney renamed him Noll. The story is rather spoilt by the fact that Cromwell did not capture Ashby Castle, it was surrendered upon terms, and Kneller could hardly have painted the horse, it being before his date.

Dr. Edward Abney, Fellow of Christ Church, Cambridge, was evidently of his father's politics, for in 1661, on the Restoration, he had to petition the king to keep him in his Fellowship, one Sir Darcy, "aspersing him" in order to expel him, no doubt drawing attention to the friendship with Cromwell. After some trouble, the king wrote to him and he was allowed to remain. At that time his father and elder brother were living, so that it was possibly of importance to him. His will, in 1721, shows him to have been a man of little vigour of action; his eldest son was a lunatic, and he had proposed to make him one legally, and so to preserve his estates for ever in his name and family; but he took no steps till it was too late to do so, he therefore set him aside in his will in favour of his son, Thomas. As Sir Edward was a lawyer, it should appear that no entail of the estates then existed to fetter his action, or, if any existed, he set it aside and so enabled his grandson to disregard his wishes.

In his dispute with Sir Darcy, respecting his Fellowship, he was strongly supported by his College; this might be because under Cromwell it had become a nest for Roundheads (the Puritan and Agnostic party have always been stronger in Cambridge), or possibly this arose from a private reason. It appears from his marriage

license with Damaris Andrews, that her father was then dead, and that it was made with the assent of Damaris, her mother, who was then the wife of Dr. Cudworth, Master of Christ's, through whose influence, probably, he had obtained his Fellowship. Sir James entrusted his youngest son, Thomas, to the care of his aunt, Lady Bromley, to be instructed and educated, to which circumstance may be attributed the pernicious views which he held and practised. Her late husband, Sir Edward Bromley, of Shiffnal Grange, desired that his body should be buried in the night, without formal pomp; by her will, Lady Bromley directed that she should be buried in the chancel of the church by her favourite preacher, Mr. Trigg, and that no one but her nephew James should be sent for. Sir Charles Hastings directed "that his body should be buried on the Grove Hill (in the Park, wrapped in woollen or oilcloth, or any such perishable material, to keep his body together, several acorns to be planted over his grave, that one good tree might be chosen, that he might have the satisfaction of knowing that after his death his body might be not quite useless, but serve to rear a good English oak;" but he did not omit to direct that a marble slab with his epitaph be laid along the floor of the church. Why were these good people, most of whom had no hope in the grave, so anxious about their burials? Papists, of course, objected to the services of the church, and they were buried at night, a proper mass or burial service having previously been celebrated in private. Lady Bromley had no objection to the Rector of Loughboro,' Oliver Broomskill, except, perhaps, she disliked his "doctrines." He was, indeed, a Roundhead, having been thrust into the church when the blatant Leicester Committee ejected the true Rector—a process which was reversed at the Restoration, when Broomskill was kicked out. Lady Bromley appointed him joint executor of her will with James Abney, so that it is evident that all three were of one mind.

It is clear from the Will of Sir Edward Abney, of Willesley, dated 19th September, 1718, that he foresaw the probable extinction of his branch of the family in the male line, and passionately desired that "so much as might be" of his estates should continue and be perpetuated "in his family and name for ever." They were a singularly long-lived race; he, himself, lived to the age of 97, his father to 94, and his grandfather was about the same age; but whilst their cousins of Newton-Burgoland and Leicester were prolific in

male descendants, his own branch seemed dying out. His grandfather was an only son, he had but one uncle, who apparently died without issue, his eldest brother, George, had died without leaving children, and Sir Thomas, his younger brother, had only three daughters left out of eleven children, who were unmarried. From his own sons he had no hope of descent; his eldest son, Edward, was a lunatic, and he was therefore disinherited in favour of his youngest son, Sir Thomas, the Judge, who at that time had no male issue, and apparently did not then expect any. In 1725, the Judge still remained without a son, and then made his will, leaving £1,000 to each of his daughters, for raising which he directed his estates at Edinghale and in Staffordshire to be sold; if he should have a son, he left him only half his real estates; but if he left none then the whole "to his cousin, Thomas Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, and to his heirs for ever," and to show his love for Willesley, he desired "to be buried amongst his ancestors in the chancel of that church." The Judge left an only son, Thomas, who succeeded in setting aside his father's and his grandfather's wishes from the accident that the will of 1725 remained unsigned at the testator's death in 1750, which occurred through "gaol fever," both sudden and unexpected, so that in fact he died intestate as to realty, though his will was valid as regarded personalty; for, although unattested, it was in the testator's handwriting, and it had been decided that such a will satisfied the statute if so intended by the testator. It was strange indeed that a Judge should make such a mistake in his own will unless there was a reason for it; but a still stranger mistake was made by his widow, Dame Frances Abney, who died ten years afterwards; she made a will, intending to leave her estate to someone, probably not her son—her only child—or she would have named him, but left the name in blank, and also failed to appoint an executor, so that Thomas Abney, the only child, came into the whole of the property of both his parents, unfettered by any restrictions, and he appears to have had no respect for their desires; he left an only daughter, who married and left one son, who ultimately diverted the estate from the family and gave it to strangers. The story of the present representation of the Willesley family is a curious one; it is to be found in a report of an action, *Kelly v. Abney*, which was tried before the late Mr. Justice Wightman, at Derby, at the Summer

Assizes of 1860. *The Derby Courier*, of 4th August of that year, has a full account of it.

It appears that Sir Charles Hastings, after he had deprived the Abney family of their inheritance by a settlement of 1844, purchased certain small properties which he did not mention in his will, and they descended to his heir-at-law, and Captain William Wootton Abney, the then owner of Measham, believing himself to be the heir, was induced to claim them. It was stated that he had been grievously misled by a pedigree at Willesley, compiled by Sir Charles himself, which improperly disposed of the issue of Sir Edward Abney by his first wife, Damaris Andrewes, by stating that all the children of Sir John Parker had died without issue. The Judge (with the assent of Counsel on both sides) fully exonerated Captain Abney, as a man of high honour, from improperly contesting the claim, declaring "that it is quite evident that Sir Charles Hastings has misled those who were interested in knowing the true state of affairs."

It appeared from certain letters, put in evidence, that so far from the Willesley family having been in ignorance of the existence of their relations, they were, in fact, upon bad terms with them, and these letters prove it. In one letter Sir Edward was addressed by his son-in-law, Sir John Parker (who was son of the Archbishop of Dublin, and a man of position), as "Sir," and his son, Abney Parker, afterwards, in 1700, declined an offer made to him to go into the church, stating that he preferred the army as a career; five years later he entered as a barrister at Gray's Inn, which must have been well known to Sir Edward Abney, who was also a barrister.

Sir John Parker had four sons and several daughters—John, the second son, was executor to Abney, his brother, who died in 1728; he left two daughters and coheirs—Mary, wife of Francis Schuldham, and Jane, wife of John Sankey, of New Park, who died 1768, leaving by his wife, a son, Abney Parker Sankey, a barrister, who died *s. p.*, and two daughters, who subsequently became coheirs of their brother; Lettice, the elder, the wife of Thomas Kelly, of Tabbervaddy, left a son, John, who, by Frances Cusack, left a son, Thomas, who was one of the plaintiffs in the above-mentioned action. The other plaintiff was Edward Kelly, son of Dennis Kelly, son of George Kelly, by Jane, sister and coheir with Lettice Sankey. This was so clear on the evidence that the verdict was, in fact, taken by consent; but there are very grave doubts whether it was correct, and whether it was properly

fought out. Sir Edward Abney had a son, James, by Damaris Andrews, whose death could not be proved, although it was admitted that he certainly was not buried at Willesley, where two other daughters of Damaris Andrews were buried, and there was no trace of his death or burial anywhere else. It was argued that he must have died because Sir Edward had not mentioned him in his will, but Sir Edward was 96 years old at the time of his death, and he omitted to mention any of the Parker family, with whom, very shortly before, he had been in correspondence, and he must have known that they were alive; he had also forgotten the entail made upon the marriage of his father with Miss Mainwaring, because, apparently without barring it, he had cut off his son, Edward, on account of alleged lunacy, though this had not then been proved, so that he clearly assumed absolute power of the disposal of his estates. He may have been on equally bad terms with the other child of his first marriage. There was a tradition in the family that a ne'er-do-well son had emigrated to America (where the Kellys were found to be resident), and it may well have been that the issue of James also were then in existence in America.

It was possible that Sir Charles Hastings had made the erroneous statements in his pedigree because he only intended to mention those of the family with whom he was on good terms; it was unfortunate that his misstatement should cause the family to waste money in costs, but that was the fault of their own solicitors, especially as the existence of the Kellys' families appear to have been well known to the Cotton family, who, after the extinction of the issue of Sir Edward, would become next in succession. Abigail Cotton, sister of Sir Edward, having married Ralf Cotton, of Bellaport, and their son, Rowland, by marriage with the daughter and heir of Sir Samuel Sleigh, became possessed of Etwall, in Derbyshire, from whom several families, now living, descend; Miss Constance Lilian Cotton is now Lady of Etwall, and her aunt, Lady Hannah Bertha, now of Hampton Court Palace, is the widow of the late General Palliser. The Eyres of Router descend from one sister of Roland, and the Cottons (Viscounts Combermere) from the other. If the Kellys were unknown, the Cottons were in a very different position.

The question of the heir-at-law of Sir Charles Hastings raises a curious question of law. Could they prove through the mother, he was the son of an illegitimate father, and, as the law stood prior to the Wills Act, he could have had no heir-at-law, and the property

would have escheated to the Crown or to the Lord of the Manor. The then recent Wills Act makes no mention of illegitimate persons, but it declares that the heir was to be sought for in the person last possessed who did not inherit, and as Sir Charles, himself, purchased these estates, they could not have descended through his mother, through whom alone he could have an heir. Of course, if this had been old Abney property his mother might have been heir to it, even before the Act. The only justification for Capt Abney's defence was whether the entail created upon the marriage of James Abney with Miss Mainwaring had been barred by Sir Edward. This was a fact which could have been proved independently of the Willesley Muniment room because such acts are on record, but, strange to say, the point was not raised at the trial, and the probability is that the entail had not been barred and therefore that Sir Edward's disposition in favour of his youngest son was invalid, and this may account for Sir Thomas, the Judge, not having executed his will whilst there was any male issue existing. Such a device would be something like a fraud, but, of course, if the issue of James were disposed of, it could be properly executed. The Judge's severe strictures upon the conduct of Sir Charles Hastings were, of course, intended for Mr. Clifton, for refusing access to his muniment room, since a man can hardly be responsible for an act which occurred after his death. If that settlement was in existence, Mr. Clifton could not be justified as a man of honour in retaining the estates, there was no sense in referring to the honour of Captain Abney (although the honesty or intelligence of his solicitors might have been impugned), because, if the heir could be traced through a female, the Cotton family were next in the inheritance and they were actually assisting the Kellys, the plaintiffs in the action, as it was well known to all the parties.

It is clear, therefore, that the action was fought on the assumption that the entail had not been barred, but counsel were either too timid or too stupid to raise the point. It is simply ridiculous to read how they admitted fact after fact which ought to have been contested; they appeared to be playing into the plaintiffs' hands—if not to be riding for a fall, a common practice at the Bar, when it is desired to retain fees or shield the solicitor.

Although Mr. Clifton was not before the Court, his conduct in keeping back Sir Charles' false pedigree was most reprehensible, and

to a Judge like Mr. Justice Wightman, a man of the highest honour, such conduct would be so regarded, and, if the counsel had given him an opportunity of throwing the blame upon a living man, he would not have hesitated to do so. Of course, if the truth had come out, Mr. Clifton would have been compelled to give up the estates to the true heir, and his refusal to run this risk would expose him to the reprobation of the Judge. It is now apparent why access to the Willesley Muniment room has always been refused; the discovery of this settlement would have preserved the estates to the family.

No doubt Captain Abney was in the difficult position that his grandfather had accepted a legacy of £5,000 under the will of Sir Charles Hastings which he ought to have contested, but possibly he might have taken this as well as the estates, to which, if the issue of James, son of Sir Edward, had failed, he was clearly entitled. It will be seen that the will of Sir Thomas admits his position as next in title after himself and his issue, and, in fact, if the issue of James were out of the way he did no wrong. It was the accident of his sudden death which made it appear that he was breaking the law. In effect, unlike his father, he was respecting the entail.

It appears from the Will of George Abney, 5 Dec., 1645, that Willesley was "strictly" entailed upon his son, James', marriage with Mr. Mainwaring's daughter, so that the testator could only deal with lands excepted from that entail, which he proceeded to do. By that settlement he either gave an estate for life or an estate tail to his son, James; certainly James did not bar the entail. His Will has not been found, so that his desire with regard to the entail is unknown; but presumably he could bar the entail either by fine or recovery. It has never been shown that he resorted to either process, nor did Sir Edward take either course—he could have done anything without the assent of his eldest son—or it would have been enrolled; he simply ignored the old entail, and by his Will, in 1718, assumed that he had a right to set aside his so-called eldest son, Edward, who was a lunatic, though, as he was not found so, so long as the entail was not barred, he could not do this. Sir Thomas, the Judge, so far set himself right, and both he and his father practically adhered to the terms of the old entail, which was presumably a special entail male, and set aside female heirs, and apparently the son devised it legally by his Will, in the very terms of the entail. Of course, so long as the entail was not barred, this, as every lawyer knows, would be

simply a nullity—the devisees would take, under their old titles as heirs of entail, and not as devisees. Sir Edward was an old man of 97 at the time of his death, and his son, James, if living, would be 57 or 58 years old. He had evidently ignored the issue of his first wife, and even if the tradition that the ne'er-do-well son had emigrated to America is true, he may have heard nothing from him for years, and may have supposed that he was dead, and this might well be the idea of Sir Thomas in 1725, when he made his Will, seven years after his father's death, and shortly after he had set himself right in law, assuming that the entail existed, by making his elder brother legally a lunatic. It is most probable that this doubt whether his eldest half-brother existed was the reason of his not having executed his Will. It may have been a matter of uncertainty, which is accounted for by the great distance of Virginia and the difficulty of correspondence, and should he be living still he did not wish to do wrong. He might not wish to stir up his relations by making enquiries, and therefore he left his Will unfinished, to be completed when he had a greater certainty. Obviously he had not intended to die intestate, or to allow his son to deprive the proper heir of entail, but unhappily he was cut off suddenly, through a jail fever, which carried off himself and other Judges and a number of prisoners, at the Old Bailey, and so his irresolution gave a kind of sanction to the course he had only proposed to pursue if he might do so properly.

However this may be, it gave Thomas, his son, a better opportunity to treat himself as the heir-at-law, unfettered by the entail of the previous century, and wholly to disregard his parent's desire, and so the proud boast of the family that "the estates should continue in their name and blood for ever," came to naught. That there was an intention to respect this family arrangement is obvious from the fact that both Sir Edward and Sir Thomas ignored all their female relations. Both of them wholly ignored Sir Edward's sister, Abigail Cotton, with whom (from her letter presently to be given) they were upon friendly terms, for she supposes, in 1692, that her son, Ralf Cotton, would dine with Sir Edward, and there meet all her nearest relations, and Sir Thomas (the Lord Mayor), her brother, is not forgotten—he had sent rings to his nephew. This letter is of great importance to show that Abigail Cotton and her son were on friendly relations with her relatives. The Parkers had probably

offended Sir Edward, but it is not probable that their existence had been forgotten.

Sir Thomas, the Lord Mayor, was alive at Sir Edward's death, and then probably had male issue living; but in 1725 certainly he had only daughters surviving. His last daughter survived Sir Thomas, the Judge, by several years, and she showed so little sympathy with her poor relations that she piously discarded them and left the bulk of her immense fortune to charities. That was partly derived from her father, but chiefly through her mother, through whom she inherited the great Gunstone estate, in Stoke Newington, now called Abney Park Cemetery. Perhaps this was in revenge because her own family had ignored her through their dislike of her dissenting connections, for she was a great light amongst the Nonconformists; and so she retaliated upon her poor relations. It is not probable that Thomas, the son of the Judge, had very much intercourse with his Nonconformist cousins; he was a man of the world, and though equally Protestant in his hatred of the Church, was of the Agnostic section of it. It is stated by some of the relatives of the family still living that the Willesley family had no sympathy with their dissenting relations.

Mr. Thomas Abney gives no intimation in his Will of his intention with regard to the Willesley estate. The probability is that he had disposed of it by his marriage settlements in some way so that his successors could divert it from the family. Nothing has transpired upon this matter except that the onus of disinheriting the Abneys is stated to rest with Sir Charles, by means of a settlement dated 1844.

He left an only daughter, Parnel. She married Charles Hastings, an illegitimate son of the 10th Earl of Huntingdon. Mr. Hastings was a distinguished Indian General, and obtained a Baronetcy (in the time of the Regency). He was an Atheist, and, as he showed pretty plainly by his directions for his burial, his mind had given way, and he ended his unhappy career by shooting himself, leaving an only son, the second and last Baronet. Lady Parnel Abney passed her days in seclusion at Willesley, afflicted by partial blindness, and her son, although he had always declared that at his death the estate should revert to the family, in 1844 settled it upon an entire stranger to them, who was the sister of the last Marquis of Hastings, who subsequently ruined himself and his family upon the racecourse. Sir Charles Hastings made it a condition, which the Clifton family

had no option but to obey, since it was apparently made in accordance with the wishes of his ancestors, from whom he derived the estates, that the holders of the Abney estate should take the name and arms of that family. Mr. Clifton, who married Lady Hastings, very properly assumed the Ingwardby coat, no doubt the Heralds employed arranging it legally for him, and Lord Loudoun and his descendants, although not inheriting a drop of Abney blood, remain burdened in perpetuity with their name and arms.

It would be unjust to the memory of Sir Thomas Abney, the Lord Mayor of London in 1694, to pass over his career unnoticed. Though possibly a good and inoffensive man, he was the means, through the political dissenters of his day, to be the cause of infinite mischief to his country, from which we are even now suffering in an extraordinary degree. Thomas Abney, the youngest son of James, the Cromwellian Sheriff, was entrusted by his father to his wife's sister, Lady Bromley, to be educated, who, of course, made him a Protestant dissenter. With his great wealth, he easily became the prey of the hungry Nonconformists. His treatment may be surmised from his funeral sermons, several of which were published. No doubt these highly spiced productions are always at the command of the good and rich, especially if their successors are likely to continue the course of conduct pursued, and to pay the cost of these sad effusions—and very sad they are in this case.

Sir Thomas appears to have been so fortunate as to have some of these "eminent divines" always sponging upon him, though, according to their panegyrics, he had no need of them, for he was of absolute perfection himself, of a "god-like" and unapproachable goodness, and he was indeed a "priest" in his own family, "excepting when a minister happened to be present, or any such sojourned with him." But what less could be said of a man who was always "ministering to the saints" (as these persons kindly called themselves), and to account for their assiduous attendances, the particular saint who composed the sermon gives a pleasant description of the saintly abode, "meats and drinks, and the pleasures of life, were easily provided by his plentiful circumstances—so that any one coming to his house with a serious tincture of mind would be ready to say, 'surely this is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.'" What those whose minds were not so seriously tintured would think of it we do not learn.

Guided by these well-fed saints, he was, they said, "chiefly instrumental" in securing to the nation "the blessing" of the Georgian race of kings, and "by his means was the crown secured to that illustrious family which now so gloriously wears it." This great blessing would appear to have been chiefly brought about by Sir Thomas Abney, who "in the interests of his country, and especially of the Church of God in it," had the courage and resolution to propose "an address from the Common Council to the King, though much opposed by the majority of his brethren on the Bench," whose embarrassment he surmounted by his great pains and prudence. A considerable person (?) then living assured Sir Thomas Abney that he had done more service to the king than if he had given him ten thousand pounds, or raised a million of money," for this example ultimately led "to the further establishment of the Protestant succession to the throne." "King William gave the last unfortunate Act his assent the day before he died, and he left it," said the pious writer, "as his best legacy to the nation." We are smarting under it to the present day, for these same Nonconformist dissenters will never rest till they have destroyed the Church. It does not appear to which of the sects—even then innumerable—Sir Thomas belonged, or which was the "Church of God." He was a Protestant dissenter (it was enough if he hated the Catholics and their Church), but from his youth he attended "the most judicious and practical preachers," who themselves were only united in opposition to the Church founded by our Lord (which He declared should remain to the consummation of all things), and which was founded on love and not upon hatred, like the Freethinkers' churches, so that it matters little to which of them he belonged, especially that now, through the aid of the Board Schools, their petty creeds are melting into one common infidelity which they call Christian Agnosticism, or Unitarianism, directly opposed to the Bible; for, having lost, happily, the training of the young, they depend now (unless they carry their reactionary projects) on the passing success of the last speaker or preacher, or divine, or whatever he is called, and it matters very little, for such triumphs are evanescent. The recent defeat, in the rejection of their attempted spoliation of church property, which was accompanied and assisted by a gross perversion of the law in the Appeal Courts, in the West Riding Education case, exhibits the great danger of a return to the terrible times of Judge Jeffries, when it was the practice to manipulate the Bench. In this case the present

Lord High Chancellor selected the two most recently appointed Judges of his own choice, though one of them most honourably refused to pervert the law in accordance with party politics, and eight Judges in the House of Lords (including the Chancellor himself) were compelled to condemn it. Such a triumph of politics over law was impossible under the old system of the three great Courts in Banco, and it should be a strong inducement to the Legislature to sweep away our foolish and wicked Appeal Courts, and to revert to the old system. If one Court of Appeal could act so foolishly as in this case, it would be set right without cost or delay by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, which sat to correct these temporary aberrations of sanity, for each of the three Courts had the strongest interest to do right and to save appeals to the House of Lords. That tribunal, under the dishonest Act to prevent appeals from the poor, has indeed deprived many suitors of justice; but in the result has lost the confidence of the profession, and stands immeasurably lower than did the old Court of Exchequer Chamber.

It is worth recording that the Abneys of Willesley themselves afterwards utterly deprecated the Protestant dissent of their illustrious relation, and regretted the harm he had done, and in the end they had good cause, for unquestionably the frightful immorality of the period of the four Georges is responsible for this misfortune, and for the injunctions of the prudent heads of the family being set aside. Alas! Willesley, which had cost them so much to keep, was lost to their posterity.

These observations are not made from any intention to cast ridicule upon an honourable family, or to degrade any member of it, living or dead. The question whether the link between the families of Willesley and their American cousins can be discovered is a very interesting one to many people, and it is to be hoped that this minute enquiry into it may tend to produce the requisite evidence; but the ridicule cast upon the political dissenters of the time of William of Orange is seriously and maliciously intended, and its exposure of their methods is designed to show how great measures may be brought about by the contemptible means of flattery and the greediness of the flatterers. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the mischief perpetrated by these schemers under pretence of religion. The old Puritan hate of everything Catholic was never more rife and mischievous than in the present day, under the devil's vice regent, Dr. Clifford. The hatred and contempt which King James II. had

brought upon his religion by his gross and immoral private life, infinitely baser than the conduct of his brother Charles, who pretended to no religion in his life-time, but only wished to enjoy a life of pleasure (though at the close of it he saw his folly, and died a sincere Catholic), left it open to the Puritans to throw back the progress that had been made, in spite of Royal immorality, since the hideous time of Cromwell, and they, of course, endeavoured to return once more to wallow in his mire. At this period they prevailed upon their ignorant countrymen to ascribe the motive of King James' Judges (which the present Government has outvied in manipulating the Bench in order to carry out their designs in the Education Act) to a desire to restore the Catholic religion, when in fact Judge Jeffries hated the Catholic Church as much as they did, and only resorted to repressive movements in order to punish the Puritans for their infamous conduct in destroying honourable Catholics by the perjuries of Titus Oates and his abettors. Judge Jeffries, though no doubt a cruel and unfeeling Judge, was probably more upright and honourable than has been supposed. Mr. Irving's admirable Life will do much to make us understand him, and to understand as well the lying and murderous Puritans, whom Jeffries hated and whom he endeavoured to put down. The reaction brought about under King William by these wicked and hypocritical dissenters ought to be fully understood; because they have been chiefly instrumental in degrading the monarchy by compelling our sovereigns, at the coronation, to pass the most shameful insults upon a large portion of Englishmen all over the world, who happen to prefer the Catholic faith to the follies and vagaries of Protestantism. Until this is fully understood, there can be no hope that the fire-brands of the present day, who are not a whit less hateful and wicked than their forerunners, will ever cease to attempt to prevent peace amongst the people. Is it too much to hope that King Edward VII., who has done so much for their welfare, may yet remove this stumbling-block of offence, and put all his subjects upon an equality?

Copy of the letter of Mrs. Cotton, of Etwall, daughter of James Abney, of Willesley, preserved by Lady Palliser, her descendant:—

"These for Rowland Cotton, Esq., att the Two White and Blue Bells, in the Haymarket, near St. James'.

"Lich., 19th of Dec., 1692.

"Dear Sonne,—I received both yr kind letters last week, that by Hary and yt by post. I writ to you on Wednesday last, and enclosed a bill for fortty pounds to be paid at sight. Thought Hary stayed too long, I wanted him. Have payd him out of your money 30 shills. 6 pence for the charge of ye horses down, but have not given him anything for himself. You shall appoint what you would have him have. I know not what you gave him at Lond. I am glad yo have airy and good lodgings, but think them very dear, for ye year round they would be almost four score pound for bare sleeping room, and have no convenience for your coach and horses neither. If yo take lodgings for 3 or 6 months, you may have them much cheaper and as good. Yor old schoolfellow Matt Nicholls is much as he was when yo was here—is very weak.

"Have yo rememd to thank yo uncle Abney, of Cornhill, for ye rings he sent yo by me? Yo say yo are not certain yo shall get off yet.

"If yo dined at Edward Abney's Thursday last all the company that was there was ye nearest relations yo have in the world.

"I shall be glad to hear of yor health and my daughter's, but doubt you will run yourself into debt if you live much in London, and do no good in your country neither, where your estate lys. Wn you are in debt, it will not be so easy a matter to get out, therefore pray be wise and remember God has not given you allmost a thousand pound a year to spend vainly, and let me hear from you once a week.

"With my kind love to yo and my daughter,

"Good sonne, your most affectionate mother,

"A. COTTON."

This member of the family was not only prudent but she saw that life had its duties. The portrait here given, which is a fine specimen of Lely's art, and worthy of preservation, is probably of this lady, although the family seem to have cared so little for it that they handed it over to their butler, who used it for a sign for his public-house, in Stoke Newington, from which degradation the family of Measham, who now possess it, rescued it by purchase from the good landlord. That it was so openly exposed is proof that it was properly obtained by him.



As before noticed, the Abneys of Willesley did not appear before the Heralds. The arms borne by the Abneys both of Newton-Burgoland and Leicester, when they appeared severally before the Heralds in 1619, were Or on a chief gu. a lion issuant argent, and Dugdale's Visitation of 1662 (Harl., 6, 104), which appears to have been added to in 1663, has a note, "Ye proper coat of Ingwardby, whose daughter and coheir married Abney." Yet in the Visitation of 1682 the Albini arms are again awarded to them. In le Neve's Knights, under date 2nd Aug. 1673, when Sir Edward was knighted, he gives the same arms. Not very long after this, Sir Thomas Abney, the Lord Mayor, seems to have adopted another coat, argent on a cross sable, five bezants, which Burke, in his *Armoury* (certainly not taken from the College of Arms)—though he does not cite his authority for the statement—gives with this note, "This was the true coat of the family and was borne by Sir Thomas Abney, Lord Mayor of London, 1694 (Harl., 6, 476); but in consequence of the marriage, circ. 1400, of John de Abney with the coheir of Ingwardby, most of the Abney



PORTRAIT OF A LADY, BY SIR PETER LELY, PROBABLY ABIGAIL
COTTON

(from Sir Thomas Abney's collection, now at Measham Hall).

descendants thereof adopted for their hereditary arms the coat of Ingwardby, which was Or on a chief gu. a lion issuant argent."

It is clear, from the records of the Guild Hall, that Sir Thomas gave to them the Ingwardby coat as his own, and it is equally clear that neither the Willesley nor the Newton-Burgoland branches ever varied in the use of the Ingwardby coat until Sir Thomas, for some unknown reason, changed his coat-armour, and the Leicester branch, down to the last of them there in 1714 and 1744, used the Ingwardby coat. Although in the latter year the Rev. John Abney sealed his will with it, the new coat appears on his tomb. The Abneys of America have always used it. It is therefore untrue to suggest that until Sir Thomas adopted it they had ever used any except the Ingwardby coat.

Mrs. Barron, the daughter of Edward Abney, Captain in the 52nd Light Infantry, still possesses her grandfather's seal, that of Edward of Measham, who died 1829, which impales the arms adopted by the Lord Mayor with the coat of his wife, Hepzibah Need—and he seems to have been the first of his line to adopt them, and probably the last, for the family quickly discarded them. No doubt Sir Thomas, the Judge, used them; they are appended to certain letters of the date of 1733, addressed to the Duke of Rutland, also in Mrs. Barron's possession.

Sir William Abney still possesses William Abney's seal (who died 1800), and two other old Abney seals, each bearing the lion.

Inasmuch as this alleged marriage of about 1400, with the coheir of Ingwardby, is a mere guess, unsupported by a shadow of evidence, and their arms had been judicially affirmed by several generations of Heralds to be the proper coat of the family, it seems scarcely necessary to enquire whose arms they are. Papworth gives them as the arms of Abwe, Stretton, and a little altered as those of St. Aubin, Lee, Stanton, Stretton, and Peveril, also Albain and Albone; but with none of these families can it be shown that the Abneys of Willesley had any relationship. It is impossible seriously to contend that the Herald of the time of William III. is entitled to any respect as an authority. He was in all probability Henry St. George, who succeeded Dugdale as Norroy in 1677, and most shamefully tampered with Dugdale's MSS., causing them to be nearly worthless. The probability is that the mistake arose from finding the cross on the shield of Philip Albini, the Crusader, but that was only the Crusader's shield,

and not his family arms. All Crusaders used the cross on their shields; they were said to have been signed by the cross.

It is a most unfortunate thing for one writing a history of the Albini family, or in attempting to elucidate it, that efforts should have been made to decry the descent of the Albini arms, because they have only borne them from about 1400 to the present time, a period of 500 years. Sir Thomas Abney, the Lord Mayor (probably with the aid of his chaplain, Dr. Watts), discovered, about 1700, that these arms were properly the arms of the Ingwardbys, and therefore were to be discarded. Ralf Bigland (Norroy), writing a century later, on the contrary, states that the proper arms of the Abneys of Willesley are those which they bore down to the year 1682, which was, then, the last period when any of the family had been before the Heralds, except Sir Charles Abney Hastings, who came to obtain some special grants for himself, which Bigland warned his clients (the Newton-Burgoland family) could not be enjoyed by them without a new grant. Bigland is unable to understand by what authority Nichols, in his History of Leicestershire, changed the arms. He did not know, apparently, how easy it was for the Lord Mayor of London, who was not afraid, with his saints, to tinker religion and pervert the meaning of the Bible, to alter the laws of the Heralds, which was a very small thing, comparatively; but now that it is seen that the Ingwardbys were Knights of the House of St. Sauveur and of Belvoir, which was never before broached, it would appear that they must have adopted the coat in honour of their Lords—or it may be that they were akin to them. It does not seem very remarkable that the Abneys or Albinis, when they came to the possession of Willesley, should use the Ingwardby arms, which were in fact their own. These facts only show how dangerous it is, even for so great a personage as Dr. Watts, to tamper with ancient records.

It is a well known historical fact that the House of St. Sauveur le Vicompt were descendants in the male line of Rollo the Dane, and, besides, intermarried with the later Dukes of Normandy. It is, therefore, as a matter of course, that they bore the lion issuant of Normandy. It is very remarkable that up to the present no proof of this fact has been found of a clear character. The charters of Albinis of the House of Arundel and those of Belvoir generally used the chevron or the swallows, but they both used the lion of Normandy at times. The Author has only been able to discover one instance

at Belvoir, and it was a Charter of Ralf Albini, of Aburn (and Naborn, perhaps the same place), and possibly meaning simply Albini. Ralf Abini's Charter grants the Church of Aburna to Belvoir Priory, and was confirmed by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, 1123-47. It was attested by a cloud of witnesses—by William Albini, Helias and Ivannus Albini, and other witnesses of the time of Henry I., and was probably made early in his reign. The seal is beautifully cut, but not quite perfect, so that it is not absolutely certain whether the lion is issuant or rampant, but it seems most probably to be the former.

Thomas de Chaworth, a descendant of Robert de Chaworth (Cadurcis), probably brother of Cecelia, the wife of Henry Albini, of Cainhoe, whose arms are unknown, bore on the reverse of his seal a coat precisely like that of Ralf Albini, of Belvoir, which is not remarkable, seeing that his ancestors held a knight's fee of Wm. Albini, of Belvoir, at the time of the Red Book, and one fee of Ferrars, which they had held tempe Hy. I. Thomas de Chaucis, or Chaworth, married the heiress of Alfreton, who was probably a daughter of Robert, son of Ralf Albini, of Aburna. Thomas changed his arms to the two chevrons of the House of Ivri and Belvoir, but it was probably no change. for Patric Cadurcis, father of Cecelia Albini, who gave Wychford to Henry Albini, is said to have borne the same arms. The period is so early that it is dangerous to refer to coat armour—but it is clear that coat armour was used at a much earlier period than is generally supposed, and used strictly in order. The tinctures of the arms of Ralf Albini of Aburna are not discoverable, but in all probability they were identical with those used by the Dukes of Normandy, who generally used the lion argent. It is not, however, a matter of importance, since tinctures are frequently changed, to prevent confusion in families, or to indicate younger houses. At all events, in the arms of the Albinis or Abneys of Willesley, the lion argent was religiously preserved until the superior knowledge of the Author of "Let dogs delight" chose to abolish them, and they must have been the arms of the Albinis of Cainhoe, since all the families we know who are descended from them, the several Houses of Willesley, Newton, Leicester, and America, as well as the Gresleys, bore them—some proof that the Gresleys are of the same family.

CHAPTER III.

THE ABNEYS OF MEASHAM.

But little is known of the history of the younger sons of George Abney of 1578. He mentions five in his Will, James, the eldest, Robert, to whom he devised Newton-Burgoland, John and Thomas, of whose history nothing was known, and Edmund, who settled at Leicester.

Nichols and other historians have added a son Walter, of whom also we have no history, but this seems to arise from a mistaken notion that his eldest son James was identical with James Abney, of Willesley, whose Will is dated 1609, and proved 7th April, 1620, who mentions his brethren, John, Thomas, Robert, and Walter, and who may possibly have been a grandson of George of 1578.

To Robert, his second son, he bequeathed all the goods, cattells, corne, household stuffs and implements which were then at the house or belonging to the house, with the appurtenances which he had lately given to him in Newton-Burgoland, within the County of Leicester; and it is not known whether this was part of his inheritance, or how George Abney acquired that property, or by what means he gave it to his son, or at what date. The first and only document relating to it is an Inquisition post mortem made upon the death of Robert Abney, dated at Lutterworth, 2 James I. (No. 21).

The jury found that Robert Abney held at his decease a messuage and 80 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Newton-Burgoland, also called Newton Nethercote, also Newton Burdet, which was then in the tenure of Elizabeth Abney, his widow. He died the 20th Dec.,

PEDIGREE OF ABNEY OF NEWTON-BURGOLAND AND MEASHAM HALL.

Robert Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, 2nd son of = Antherie fil = Elizabeth, widow, 44 Eliz.
 George, of Willesey. † 20th Dec., 44 Eliz.
 Will proved 2nd July, 1602.

Thomas, 1st son, act. 16, 18th April, 44 Eliz. = Susanna.
 Will proved 7th July, 1652.

= Anna, daughter of Thomas Smyth, of
 Lockington, 2nd wife.

Robert, 1st son, = Ann Carver.
 served under
 Lord Grey, of
 Groby. † *s. p.*,
 1658.

Thomas, of St. Bartholomew's, = Susannah, daughter of
 Lond., and of Newton-Burgo- G. Swindles, of Ashby,
 land, b. 10th July, 1652. † 2nd wife.
 1724. = Ann Ullock, 1st w.,
s. p.

George,
 b. 1628.

(1) Ellen, ux. Richard Bates.
 (2) Ann, ux. Thos. Darcy.
 (3) Rebecca.
 (4) Mary, ux. Wm. Sareson.
 (5) Sarah.

(2) George, of
 Lisbon. Will
 1744.

(6) George, b.
 1680, living
 1744.

(4) Samuel, b.
 1677.

(1) Robert, of
 N.B., b. 1672
 † 1744.

Mary, dau. of
 Wm. Webb,
 of Hamstal
 Ridware.

(3) Edward,
 † 1702.

(5) Joseph,
 bap., 1678.

Eliz., ux. Robt. Shipton, of
 Tamworth, b. 1666.

Anna, b. 1663, ux. Arthur More.
 Prudence, † infant.
 Mary, † infant.

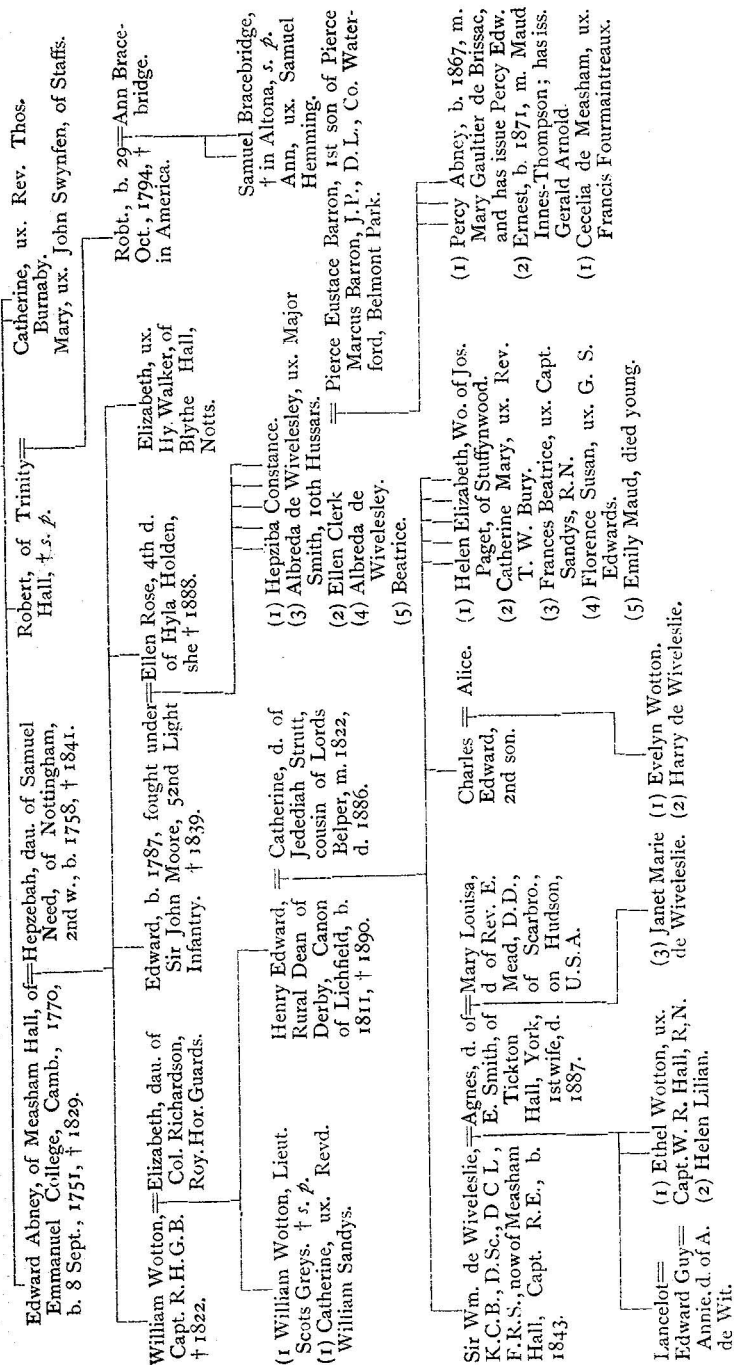
(1) Robert, High = Susannah, dau.
 Sheriff of Warw. and h. of Roger
 left issue only a Horne, of Walsa.
 dau., w. of Roger
 Holmes.

(3) George, had issue.
 (4) Joseph.

(2) William, of the = Catherine, d. and h. of
 Inner Temple, of Capt. Thos. Wotton,
 Measham Hall, b. R.N., of Little Canons,
 1713, † 1800. Herts.

(5) Edward.
 (1) Susannah.

a a



44 Eliz.; the estate was held in capite of the queen for one-fourth of one knight's fee Thomas, his son, aged 16, the 18th April, 44 Eliz.

Little is known of the history of this family. Robert Abney, the grandson of the first Robert, was owner of Newton at the time of the Commonwealth, and fought under Lord Grey, of Groby, son of the Earl of Stamford, who was one of the regicides on the trial of King Charles I. He died without issue in 1658, when his estates passed to his half-brother, Thomas, who was then of St. Bartholomew's Royal Exchange, in the City of London, who remained in London certainly until 1702, for that year he administered to the estate of his son, Edward. Thomas Abney was a contemporary with Thomas, then Lord Mayor, and was probably in extensive business. His eldest son, George, was a merchant at Lisbon, and died there the 23rd July, 1744, and devised his estate in the counties of Derby and Leicester to his brothers, Robert and George. Robert Abney, by his Will dated 1st Sept., 1744, in which he is described as of Newton-Burgoland, devised to his son William certain properties which he specified in Newton and Shakstone, with all the lands which came to him on the death of his brother George, whether in Great Britain, Portugal, or elsewhere. He left several sons; Robert, who was High Sheriff of Warwickshire, who left only a daughter; George, Joseph, Edward, and William, who was of the Inner Temple, ultimately succeeded to the family estates. He married Catherine, daughter and coheir of Thomas Wotton, R.N., of Little Canons, Herts, who brought with her a fortune of £80,000, a great one in those days.

The pedigree of this family of Wotton is unknown, but in all probability they were descended from the Wottons, of Bocton, who intermarried with the Dannetts, of Leicester, after whom the Abneys of that place named several of their sons—a name they subsequently planted in America. Mary, daughter of Sir Robert Wotton, married Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, father of John Grey, of Pirgo, and Henry, father of the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. From John Grey, of Pirgo, descended Lord Grey, of Groby, under whom Robert Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, fought in the Civil Wars.

William Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, was a very remarkable man. *The Gentleman's Magazine* for the year 1800 gives a memoir. In it it is asserted that he bought the estate of Measham, and erected the family mansion there. He was born the 25th Nov., 1713, and lived, like many of his predecessors, to an advanced age, and died, after

fulfilling all the duties of a country gentleman in the most exemplary manner, at the age of 87, in the year 1800. This is in the best funeral sermon style—though he is not described as god-like or even as saintly. “Mr. Abney was one of the last of that old-fashioned race of English proprietors who now only survive amongst the writers of romance. After refusing a seat on the Bench, he resided constantly upon his estate in the country, performing all the duties of a magistrate firmly, humanely, and actively; his chief pleasure arose from expending little upon himself and assisting his poorer neighbours, maintaining at the same time a most hospitable establishment, all within his immediate vicinity; tenantry and neighbours were alike welcomed with a truly patriarchal reception. His carriage, built at the Coronation of George III., was drawn by four long-tailed horses, and driven by a coachman above 50 years in the family. His domestics had grown grey in his service, and it was curious to see him waited upon by four or five tottering servants of nearly his own age, who regarded him more as a brother than a master. His liveries corresponded with the other parts of his establishment, long shoulder knots, with sleeves and waistcoat pockets of the preceding century. He was a man of a very vigorous mind, a Whig of the Revolution, and in 1793 discoursed of the actors in that great event with the familiarity of a contemporary. His attachment to the House of Hanover was almost idolatrous, and his proudest boast was his having headed a party to oppose the Chevalier when at Derby on his advance southward.”

The costume he wore when going with his tenantry to oppose the Pretender at Swarkeston Bridge is still preserved by one of his descendants, Mrs. Barron. His picture is at Measham.

Mr. William Abney was very proud of his family, and to him we are indebted for the little that is known of them. According to Nichols he headed his account with the title, “An incorrect account of the Abney family.” Probably in later life he had little intercourse with his cousins of Willesley, and was excluded from the muniment room. As he was a barrister this is intelligible.

He devised his land in a curious manner, possibly in deference to some ancient custom, but nothing is known of its origin. It is said to be customary in the north of England, and looks as if it were a remnant of English laws which modern scholars would call Saxon. The eldest son was to succeed first for his life, then his younger brothers for their lives in the order of seniority. Edward, the first

son, had only one brother, Robert. After his death the estate came to the sons of the eldest son, Edward, in the same order. Edward had only two sons, Captain William Wotton Abney and Edward, also a Captain in the army. The latter had no sons, but five daughters, one of whom, Ellen Clerk, who married Pierce Eustace Barron, is still living, at Belle Isle, Ichinghen par Pont de Briques, France, and to this lady the Author is chiefly indebted for materials for the history of her family.

This curious arrangement did not please any of the family, and in order that the estates might descend to his son at his death, instead of reverting to his brother for his life, Capt. Wm. Wotton agreed to give him an annuity of £500 a year, and then, with his full assent, he barred the entail, and the estate has since descended in accordance with the common law.

Two of the grandsons of William Abney entered the army. William Wotton was Captain in the Royal Horse Guards Blue, and Edward, of the 52nd Light Infantry, fought under Sir John Moore. The late Captain Dobbs, of Waterford, a 52nd man, has left a MS. stating that Sir John Moore, with his regiment, dashed into the Old Guard and routed them at Wellington's orders, the 90th helping them, Wellington calmly saying, "We have the day." A proud day for the young officer and a glorious memory for his descendants. Edward Abney left only five daughters, one of whom, Mrs. Barron, of Ichinghen, relates this story. Captain William Wotton Abney married Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel Richardson, of the Royal Horse Guards, and was father of Lieutenant William Wotton, of the Scots Greys, who died *s. p.*, and of Henry Edward, Rural Dean of Derby, Canon of Lichfield, who married Catherine, daughter of Jedediah Strutt, ancestor of the Lords Belper, and had issue Sir William, now of Measham Hall, and Charles Edward Abney. Sir William has at Measham a magnificent portrait of the first Jedediah Strutt, by Wright, of Derby. Sir William Abney has always used the old Albini arms of his family. He still possesses the seal of William Abney, of 1800, bearing the same coat.

The present owner of Measham Hall is a distinguished man of science, Capt. Sir William de Wiveleslie Abney, K.C.B. Civil, 1900. R.E., D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.S.; was Dir. for Science, S. Kensington, then Principal Assist. Director, and is now Adviser to the Board of Education, Past-President of the Royal Astronomical Society and

Physical and Royal Photographic Societies. He is a J.P. for Derbyshire and Leicestershire. He received the Romford Medal of the Royal Society for his researches in Radiation. He is the author of several scientific works on Colour and on Photography, and also has published a work on the Temples of Egypt, and is joint author on the "Pioneers of the Alps." His scientific papers to the Royal Society and elsewhere are not far short of 500. His portrait is here given.

The following Wills of the family have been found :—

Prob. Reg., Leicester. Will of Robt. Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, in the County of Leicester, gentleman, dated the 6th day of March, 1602, proved the 2nd July, same year. To be buried in the Parish Church of Swepson. To Antherie, his wife, £10 of goods. Four youngest children to have the third part of his land in Newton and Shackerston from the 6th day of March next for the term of 21 years, paying his eldest son, Thomas, 9s. a year. The rest of his goods to be divided amongst his youngest children. Provided that if the said Thomas will put in sureties to pay his son, John, £30, and his three daughters, Ann, Ellen, and Isabel, £20 apiece, he may enter upon the same land. His wife and Thos., his son, joint executors. He appointed overseers Mr. Edward Abney, of Willesley, William Salisbury, Robert Burguland, and William Biddle, of Newton aforesaid.

P.C.C. Bowyer, 196. Thomas Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, in the County of Leicester, gentleman, dated 21st Dec., 1649, proved 7th July, 1652. To his wife, Ann, certain lands in dower, the Household Close, Lea Croft, Corbett's Close, Quetwood Close, and Quetwood Nook. To son, Robert, and his daughters, certain furniture. the Statfold Field, the Upper Field, the Well Close, and the New Close, with four beasts, Common on the Heath, and two yards of land and proportion of gorse, to be demised to his said wife, Ann, and unto James Abney, of Willesley, from the date thereof for 20 years, for providing portions for Ann, Rebecca, and Sarah, and for bringing them up, and for raising a portion and bringing up of Thomas, his youngest son. £100 to each of daughters, and £50 for Thomas, and if they died, then £10 to Thomas, the son of William Searson. £40 is due to Lady Humphrey, of Swepston, and £40 to Wm. Searson, of Shakerston, and £12 to Robert Starkey, of Heather.

T., James Abney, William Adams, and George Clark.

P.C.C., Wootton, 215. Will of Robert Abney, of Newton-Burgo-

land, gentleman, dated 27th Nov., 1657, proved 27th April, 1658. To wife, Ann, £100, which her father, George Ullock, left. In case his wife should not have a son, his brother, Thomas Abney, of London, to have all his lands in Swepson and Newton-Burgoland. If he left only a daughter, she to have £400. William Searsons, his brother-in-law's children, £10; his brother-in-law, Thomas Darbie's child, £5; his cousins, *Thomas Bates and Ann Bates*, 50s. Mother, Ann Abney, brother, Thomas Ullock.

(Ellen, daughter of Robt. Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, m. Rich. Bate, 1633, aunt to testator.)

P.C.C. Juxon, 125. Will of George Abney, of the City of London, Esq., dated 19th October, 1663, proved 27th Nov., 1663. To be buried in St. Lawrence, Old Jewry. Cousin, John Harrison, citizen and grocer, of London, to brother, Thomas Abney, £100. Servant, Matthew Gareday. To his cousin, Richard Wynn, his silver tobacco box. Jeremy Freeman and Samuel Rowe, 20s. each, to buy rings. Cousin Mary Harrison a watch, and Thomas Harrison.

P.P.C. March, 1702. Administration to the estate of Edward Abney, of St. Bartholomew's, Royal Exchange, London, granted to Thomas Abney, his father.

P.C.C. 1 Leymer. Will of George Abney, of Lisbon, Portugal, merchant, dated 23rd July, 1744, proved 19th January following. To Miss Sarah Scholes, 1,920 mil of lawful currency of Portugal. James Houston, junr., 40 mil. His estate to his brothers, Robert and George Abney, in Derbyshire and in the County of Leicester. Mr. Ambrose Wilson and Mr. William Southan, of Lisbon, merchant, 31st July, 1744, a certificate of the testator's death on the 23rd July same year.

P.C.C. Leymer, 130. Will of Robert Abney, of Newton-Burgoland, Leicester, dated 1st Sept., 1744, proved 13th May, 1745. To son, William, the Church Way Field, in Newton-Burgoland, and land in common field of Shakston, and all the land which came to him on the death of his brother George, whether in Great Britain Portugal, or elsewhere.

T., Elizabeth Abney, Sarah Stone, and Eliz. Bagnol.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ABNEYS OF LEICESTER AND AMERICA.

This branch descends from Edmund, third son of George Abney, of Willesley, 1578, whose father left him a legacy of £40, without any share in their lands ; like so many Englishmen of his date and of all times, he went into trade, although it seemed to have severed him from his family. He married the daughter of a citizen and former Mayor of Leicester. He was admitted a Freeman in 1594, and was a Councillor in 1599, and for two generations his successors remained there, and, so far as their Wills show, without any connection with their cousins of Willesley and Newton-Burgoland. The only mention of them in these Wills is that of Edmund, the first who settled at Leicester. He seems to have succeeded in trade at once, and not to have required the legacy of £40 which his father left him, for at his death his brother, James, who had probably predeceased him, was still owing to him the sum of £71; possibly it had grown to that amount in 25 years by the accrual of interest. Philip, the grandson of Edmund, attained to the highest civic rank in the provincial town, and his son was also Mayor thereof. Though in trade, and cut off from their distinguished family through it, they did not forget that they were of gentle, and indeed of noble race, and several of them sealed their wills with the lion rampant of the Albinis of Belvoir. In the fourth generation, two of the sons of George, the head of the Leicester family, went to London, where their cousin, Sir Thomas Abney, from Willesley, held a high position ; he was a rich man, enriched also by trade ; and two of the more adven-

PEDIGREE OF ABNEY OF LEICESTER.

Edmund Abney, of St. Mary's, Leicester, 3rd son of George Abney of Willesley = Catherine, dau. of William Ludlam, (see ped., p. 52), bu. at St. Mary's, Apr., 1604. Will prd. 25 Jan., 1604-5, in P.C.C. Mayor of Leicester, 1587.

Paul Abney, of Leicester, 1619, = Mary, daughter of Catherine, liv. 1619. Maria, ux. Dannett Abney, of = Ann, dau. of Roger = Joan Slater, entered his pedigree at the Geo. Brooksby, liv. 1619. Jn. Colley, Leicester Mayor, Gladwin of Ruskington, co. Lincoln, bu. 1622-3. Herald's Visitation, bu. at of Stapleford, Isabel. ham. July, prd. 9 Dec., 11 Aug., 1632. Leicester, 10 June, 1634. Will prd. 18 June, 1635, at Leic.

(1) George Abney, = Bathshua, = Rev. Jos. Lee, Rect. of Leicester, as Bathshua Lee, Rect. Aug., 1615, living at St. Mary's, 11 Lee Will at of Cotes- July, 1613, bu. Leices., prd. 22 Sep., 1712. February, May, 1619. Richard, 30 Oct., 1626. Adm. grid. to his dated 8 Jan., 1706. St. Mary's. Will prd. (6) Paul, + infant. June 27th, 1604, in P.C.C.

(2) Francis, 22 Aug., 1619. (3) John, 2nd May, 1619. (4) Philip of = Anne, bu. 27 Dec., 1706. (5) Dorothy, 12 March, 1626. (6) Ann, m. Robert Hartshorne. (7) Catherine, 4 March, 1632.

(1) Francis, Elizabeth. (2) Joan. (3) Mary, + inf. (4) Mary, + inf. (5) Dorothy, 12 March, 1626. (6) Ann, m. Robert Hartshorne. (7) Catherine, 4 March, 1632.

Edmund, John b. 1616, bu. 31st August, 1617. James, + inf. b. 1618.

(1) Paul Abney, 14 Jan., 1652-3. (2) Dannet, + inf. (3) George of London, living 1689. (4) Abraham, of London, 12th Apr., 1658. Will, P.C.C. 28th June, 1689.

(For further pedigree of this branch post, "Pedigree of the Abneys of America.")

John Abney, of Leicester = Tabitha, d. of Bennett, of Braunston, m. 23 Nov. 1682. Will 1718, at Leic. sealed with a lion ramp., at Leic.

John Abney, of Leicester = Tabitha, d. of Bennett, of Braunston, m. 23 Nov. 1682. Will 1718, at Leic. sealed with a lion ramp., at Leic.

Rev. John Abney, Vicar of Syston, b. 23 May, 1692; B.A. of Linc. Col., Ox'f'd; he was married, but left no issue, buried at Syston. Will 15 Oct., 1744, sealed with a lion ramp.

Bennett, + infant. (1) Ann, ux. Rev Jn. Clayton, Vicar of St Nicholas', Leic. (2) Tabitha. (3) Mary. (4) Elizabeth.

turous, Paul and Dannet, appear to have sought their fortunes, and made them, in Virginia, then the great field for English enterprise. If they did not take this course, then the Leicester family has died out. They were probably enabled to do this through the Adventurers' Patent obtained by Henry Dabeine in 1607, already set out (p 58), who is probably Henry Abney. Although there is no trace of the name of Henry at this period in the Abney pedigrees, in earlier times it had not been uncommon, and nearly the last of the Peak family bore that name, but there can be no question that Henry Albini was one of the Virginian adventurers in 1611, and that at least two and probably three of the name of Abney settled in that colony.

The pedigree here given is taken from the account of the family given by Mr. Henry Hartopp, a well-known Leicester antiquary, in their Notes and Queries (Vol. II., p. 93).

P.C.C. Harte, 65. Will of Edmund Abnye, of the Borow of Leicester, gentleman, dated 17th March, 1603, proved 24th Jan., 1604. To Catherine, his wife, a messuage within the Southgate, in Leicester, in which they dwelt, whilst Paul, his son, was apprentice, his term of apprenticeship expiring at the Feast of the Purification of our Lady, 1607. His wife was also to have a cottage at Belsthorpe, Rutland. Paul to pay his mother £26 13s. 4d. Dannett, his son, to have £13 6s. 8d. out of the Belsthorpe property, at his marriage, or when 21. Catherine, Mary, and Isabel, his daughters. Richard Pudsey, of Chilcott, in Derby, gentleman, and Edward Turner, of Leicester, gentlemen, his overseers. His brother, James Abney, owed him £71.

T., Edward Turner, Scriptor, Thomas Pollard, Edmund Lowe.

Probate Reg., Leicester. Will of Paul Abney, no date, proved 18th June, 1635. He devised to his wife his farm in the South Field and the house wherein he dwelt. Ground bought of Mr. Morton to wife for life, and after to descend upon his son, John. All his personal estate to his children equally, George to have a double portion. His brothers, Mr. Philip Brooksbie, and Mr. Dannett Abney, his executors.

P.C.C. 5th May, 1661. Administration to the estate of George Abney, was given to Bathshua, his widow.

P.R., Leicester. Will of Dannett Abney, of Leicester, dated 10th July and proved 9th Dec., 1669. Alderman of the Borough. To be buried in the chancel of St. Mary's, Leicester, near the grave of his grandfather, William Ludlow. All his lands he bequeathed to his friend, William Frank, gentleman, of Liecester, and his nephew,

Philip Abney, of St. Mary's, upon trust, to sell the same. To his grandchild, Catherine Somerfield, £100, and the residue of his estate. To his godson, Dannet, one of the sons of his nephew, George Abney, £50.

Prob. Register, Leicester. Will of Philip Abney, of the Boro., gentleman, dated 18th Dec, 1696, proved 7th August, 1697. To his son-in-law, Thomas Holliland, 5s., and to his two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Mary Holliland, 5s. each. All his lands and his personal estate to his wife, Ann, for her life, remainder to his son, John, in fee.

P.C.C. Ent. 74 Will of Abraham Abney, citizen of London, dated 28th May, 1689, proved the 28th June following. Mentions his brother, George Abney, citizen of London. He bequeathed to his mother, Bathshua, £100, to brother, Dannett, £50. Cousin, Martha Burton. The Judge, Sir Thomas, married a lady of this name. To Mr. Edward Wach, hat maker, and wife, £10.

T., John Abbott, Thomas Weaver, Richard Bassett.

P.R., Leicester. Will of Bathshua Lee, widow, dated 8th Jan., 1706. To Mr. Edmund Spencer, of Leicester, the Third Volume of the Sermons of the late Rev. Thomas Manton, D.D. To Ann Orton, of Leicester, and William Orton, her son, 5s. each, the residue of her property to her son, Dannett Abney. Ann Orton and William Orton to be joint executors. 22nd Sept., 1712, administration was granted to William Orton, one of the executors named.

P.R., Leicester. Will of John Abney, of Braunston, in the County of Leicester, gentleman, dated 18th July, 1714, proved 11th Sept, same year. Sealed with a lion rampant. To his son and daughter, John and Ann Clayton, for their lives, his land in Leicester, in the tenure of Wm. Glover. His messuage in the Southgate Street, in St. Mary's, in Leicester, to his wife, Tabitha Abney, and his friend, William Fox, of St. Mary's, clerk, to sell; his daughter, Ann Clayton, to take one-third thereof; to daughter, Tabitha, another third, and daughter, Mary Abney, another third. Another daughter, Elizabeth, is mentioned.

P.R., Leicester. Will of Tabitha Abney, of Braunston, widow, dated 22nd Nov., 1717, proved the 24th May, 1718. Bequeath to her daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, property which was her late mother's, Mary Bennall's. To her son, John Abney, her great silver tancard. To daughter, Ann Clayton.

P.R., Leicester. Will of the Rev. John Abney, Vicar of Syston, dated 15th Oct., proved 15th Xber, 1744, gave all to wife, including land bought of his brother, Thomas Adcock, of Syston.

P.R., Leicester. Will of Elizabeth Abney, widow, of Syston, Leicester, dated 30th Dec., 1771, proved 7th Oct., 1780, leaves all her lands and personal estate to her nephew, John Throsby, in fee. To her brothers, Thomas Adcock and William Adcock, and sister, Jane Throsby, £5 apiece. Her late sister, Ann Simpson.

English records give no account of the sons of George and Bathshua. He made no will and Bathshua only mentions her son, Dannett; this was in 1706, and although she left the whole of the property to him, she did not appoint him her executor, but made two persons of the name of Acton, evidently poor people, to whom she left five shillings each, her executors, and one of them administered to her estate. Prior to this will no mention is made of any of the sons of this couple except from the will of Abraham Abney, of London. In 1689 he left his mother, Bathshua, £100, and his brother, Dannett, a sum of £50; in 1706, Dannett had long been settled in Virginia. Neither Bathshua nor George Abney state the residence of Dannett and the probabilities are that he had already settled abroad; the fact that he did not prove his will shows, tolerably conclusively, that he was not then in England.

The following pedigree was prepared and sent by Mr. John R. Abney, Counsellor-at-law, of New York, who held a distinguished position as State Solicitor in South Carolina; he has taken much pains to collect the evidence from the various Record Repositories of the States, and his account can be thoroughly relied upon in proof of the pedigrees. It would seem to be invidious on the Author's part to presume to correct or alter them. These evidences are very interesting, and they show how, with care, pedigrees may be made which connect Americans with their English relations; though they do not go very far back, their evidences are very superior to those of England, especially in relation to collaterals.

There can be but little doubt that Paul Abney, of Leicester, son of George and Bathshua, is identical with Lieutenant Paul Abney of the Spanish main, 1677-88.

In the Colonial State Papers for America and the West Indies, only about a day's sail from Virginia, in the years 1677-80, there are documents, numbered 1,118, 1,241, 1,498, 1,567, and in those for

PEDIGREE OF THE ABNEYS OF AMERICA.

George Abney, of Leicester, = Bathshua, adm. to her husb., 25 Mar., 1661 = Rev. Joseph
 b. 11 July, 1613, † 3 Mar. 1661. rem. 7 Feb., 1663-4. Will at Leices., Lee, Rector
 8 Jan., 1706. of Cotesbach. a

Paul Abney, bap. St. Mary's, Leicester, 14 Jan., 1652 = Mary Lee.
 Lieutenant of the Frigate *Yosiah* (Captain Sharpe),
 1685-8. The State Papers. † in Va.

George Abney, of Henrico, Va., grantee of Land in = Unity, living 1762.
 Henrico, Lunenburg, Halifax and Charlotte Counties,
 1728-1760. Will at Halifax, Va., 13 Oct., 1765,
 prd. 16 Oct., 1766. b

William Abney, of Halifax, Va. and S. C., = Mary Clark = Elizabeth Burnham.
 devisee of his father in 1766; grantee of 1st wife. 2nd wife.
 lands in S. C., 1774; Lieut. and Captain
 in Revolution, 1775-1783. Adm. Edge-
 field, S. C., bu. Feb., 1832.

Walter Abney, = Susan = Mary, (2) John = Susan (3) Wm. = Barsheba (4) Absolom
 of S. C., 1st s. Brooks, 2nd Abney, Troup Will at Pope. of Georgia.
 † Dec. 1827. 1st wife. wife. remov. Edge- (5) Abijah,
 Will at Edge- † s. p. field, m. Owdom.
 field, S. C., 17 † c. 1837 1811. † s. p.
 Dec., 1827. (1) Charlotte (6) Hiram, m.
 (2) Susan, ux Andrew Willie Hazel.
 Burnham, M. D.
 (3) Ellen, ux. Wm. Scurry.

John Rutledge = Fereby = Alesy, d. (2) Masten, (4) William, Arethusa (1) Walter,
 Abney, of S. C. Walton of Caleb † s. p., Jan , m. 1st Nancy ux Leroy † s. p., 1831.
 1st s., devisee 1st wife Lindsey, 1837. Black, Brown. (2) Absolom
 of his father, † s. p. of New- (3) Simeon, 2nd May, née (3) Melchijah = Isabel
 1827. berry, S. m. Sophia Ellis, had iss. of Missis- Cul-
 Admon. at C., 2nd w. Black, † s. p., 1836. sippi. breath.
 Edgefield. m. Oct., s. p., 1836. (1) Ellen, (2) Sophia, ux. Pearson, M. D.
 † 1833.

James Madison Abney, only = Martha, dau. of Daniel Living- Susan,
 son, b. 10 Aug., 1827. ston, of Edgefield, S. C., b. infant.
 † 20 June, 1889, bu. at 13 Jan., 1824, m. 21 Dec., 1848.
 Edgefield, 23 June, 1889. † 18 June, 1877, bu. at Edgefield.

John Rutledge = Mary Lloyd, (2) George = Martha, = Helen (3) Benjamin (1) Laura, ux. Edwin
 Abney, 1st s., d. of George Warren, d. of Jno. Craw- Lindsey, Atwood Glover,
 now of New M. D., Lake Pope ford, Cousellor-at- Counsellor-at-Law,
 York, Coun- dleton, U. S. City, Flor. Abney, 2nd w. Law, of Col- and has iss., (1) John,
 sellor-at-Law, Minister to Germany, 1st wife, umbia, S. C. † infant, (2) Victor
 b. in S. C., 11 Jan., 1850; 1885-1889; b. Mar. 26, Helen. Ursula. Bernice. E., (3) Claudius. (1)
 State Solicitor b. 1852; m. 21st Nov., (2) Ursula, ux. James
 of S. C., 1876- 1896. Conway Hunter, of
 80. Atlanta, Ga.

a

(5) Dannet Abney, of Virginia, bap. at St. Mary's, Leicester, 26 Feb., 1659, grantee of land in Virg., 1728-32. Will at Spottsylvania, prd. 5 Mar., 1733. Mary, a widow in 1735, sold land to Edward Hickman.

(1) Dannett of Hanover, grant of land in Spottsylvania, Han', Henrico, Lunenburg, and Halifax, 1728-59. Will d. 3 Nov., 1756. Mary, (2) Abraham Cassandra, l. in Henrico, Luxem., & Halifax, 1745-63, rem. to S.C. c. 1784, hdd iss. (1) Nathaniel, M.D., m. Lucy; he was Surgeon in Revolution Gr. of l. in S.C., 1784, and (2) George. (3) Paul, gr. of l. in Goochland, 1742. (4) Abner of Albemarle (see ped. on next page).

(2) Samuel, devisee of his father, 1766, Grantee of land in Va., 1767; m. S. C., 1772, Adm. Edgfield, 5 Feb., 1802; m. Mary, had issue, Samuel, who † s. p.

(3) Dannett, devisee of his father, 1766. 1755 bought l. in Halifax from Thos. Pinett. Cassandra, 1st wife. Martha, 2nd wife. † at Edgfield, 1817.

Dannett, 1811.

(4) Michael of S.C.

Zacharia, adm. at Edgfield, 1818. Tabitha.

Wm. McQueen Charlotte.

(1) Benjamin, † s. p.
(2) Wilson, m. Chloe West, † s. p.
(3) Leit, † s. p.
(4) Zachariah of Texas

(1) Harriet, ux. Jacob K. Schumpert. McClure.

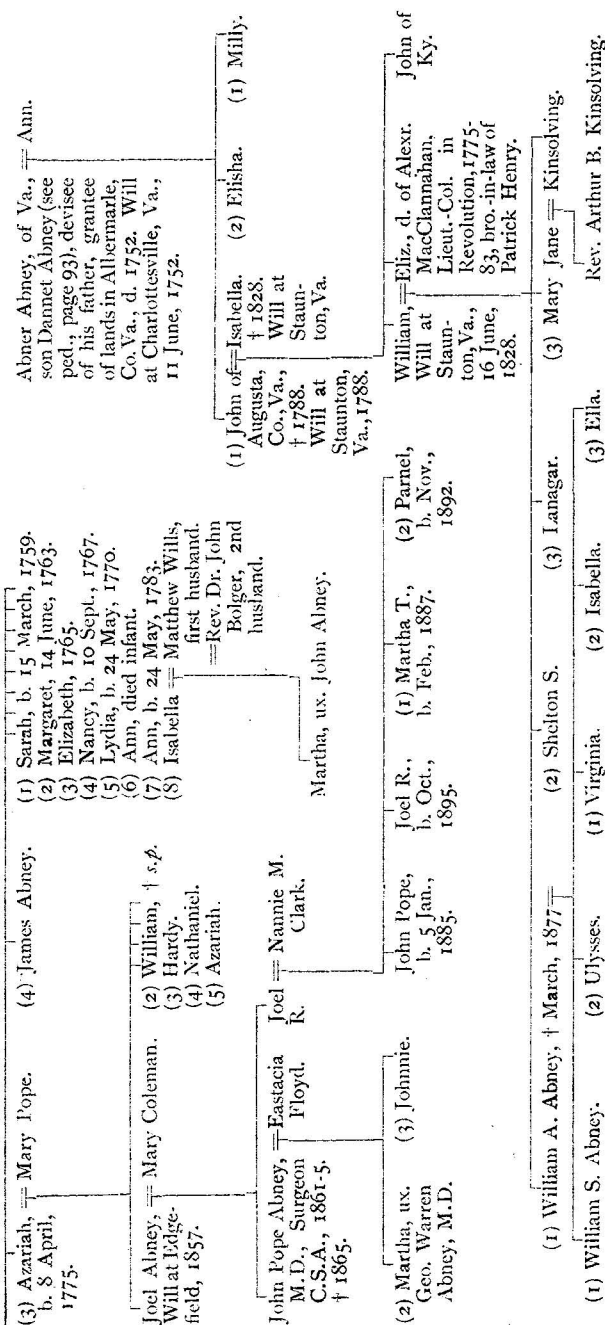
(2) Malinda, m. Jas. K. Gilder, M.D.; had issue Jas. K. Gilder, M.D., of Newberry, S.C.

William J., Adm. at Edgfield, S.C., 1837.

(1) Cary M.
(2) Olin, L., M.D.
(3) John Abney, a Judge in Texas.

(1) Osborn L., State Solicitor of S.C., m. 1st, Cena Pool, and 2ndly, Mary Pool, by whom he had issue Aumerle and Thyra.
(2) Malinda.
(3) Frederick, m. Martha Coleman.

(1) Henderson, M.D., of Ky.
(2) William H., Judge in Ky., † s. p.



the years 1685-8, there are documents, numbered 532, 841, 945, relating to Paul Abney.

15th Sept., 1679 (when he would be about 26 years old), Paul Abney was lately taken prisoner, with his sloop and passengers, by a Spanish man-of-war belonging to a squadron of five ships called the Barlo Vento Fleet. "The sloop, which only had cocos on board, was plundered. Abney produced my pass" (writes the Governor) "to the Vice-Admiral, who wiped his breeches with it, and threw it at him again, converted the cargo of the ship to his own use, and forced Abney to sign a receipt of having received money for the same, which indeed he had not; or else not to be discharged."

The Council mildly demanded satisfaction, but then, as in the present day, they were too much concerned in destroying their Catholic brethren to care much for the honour of their country.

3rd Jan, 1686. Paul Abney, Lieutenant, signed a statement of Captain Bartholomew Sharpe to the Earl of Sunderland, as to the disloyalty.

26th June, same year, Abney made a deposition, and 28th Oct. following Governor Richard Coney, writing to Deputy-Governor Sir James Russell, begs that Sharpe, Abney, and Mr. Valley, be not imprisoned. What happened is not known. It is evident that British cowardice was no match for Spanish insolence.

Abraham Abney, hearing of this in May, 1689, when making his will, might well fear that his brother was lost, never to be heard of again. The State Papers are silent as to his fate, and no record of his settlement in Virginia has been found, though there is a tradition of a contemporary Paul Abney. But it is absolutely clear that Dannett Abney was settled in Virginia as early as 1692, only three years after he is mentioned in Abraham Abney's Will, when Dannett, of Leicester, was 32 years old.

It may be objected that the Notices presently given are only fragmentary. The wonder is that so many have been discovered. Unfortunately, in the early settlements of the different counties of Virginia, the records were kept very imperfectly, very different from those of New York, which are so excellent that a pedigree can readily be compiled from them; and worse than this, terrible losses have occurred owing to the frequent warfare between the Indians and in Bacon's rebellion, and again in the Revolution of 1775-83, and in the last American war, when much of what was left was taken away or

destroyed by the Northern troops. They overran Lower Virginia for four or five years, and many Courthouses and their records were burnt. Even now occasionally an old record turns up in the North, and is either returned or repurchased, for it is treated as a war-trophy. Unfortunately, the Records of Nausemond, King William, and Hannover Counties, and part of those of Henrico County and South Carolina are missing, so that upon the whole the Abney family may be congratulated upon the discovery of so many of their early records.

There was a tradition in the American family, handed down by Dr. Matthew Abney, who was a very old man living in 1870, and by other old members, that the American Abneys descended from two brothers, Paul and Dannett, who both settled in Virginia; that Paul was a captain or lieutenant of a ship, and married Mary Lee, and that George was his son, that George's sons were Captain William, Samuel, Michael, and Dannett, all of whom migrated to South Carolina; that Dannett, the first named, had a son, Dannett, who was father of Captain Nathaniel and Abraham, who had a son, Nathaniel, who was a surgeon in the Revolution. This great event, the glory of America, appears to be the point around which everything revolves. It requires no great stretch of imagination to accept as truth the greater part of this tradition. The documents presently to be given go a great way in confirming it; indeed, the issue of George is clearly proven by his Will of 1765 and the other records, and the same may be said of the issue of Dannett by his Will of 1733 and other documents. That Dannett and George were contemporaries, and that both obtained grants of land in 1728 is quite clear, and the want of earlier grants is explained by the history of such evidence already given.

It may be conceded, too, that Dannett was identical with Dannett, son of George and Bathshua Abney, of Leicester. Of that there can be no rational doubt, but in face of the fact that Sir Edward Abney had a son, James, who is not accounted for, and the want of evidence of the name of George's father, it is impossible to accept his pedigree as absolutely proven.

The State Papers show that Paul Abney was a Lieutenant in 1685-8 upon the coast of Virginia; but there appears to be no evidence, at present, of his settlement there and of his having a family. It may be accepted that he was the son of George and Bathshua, but there

is no evidence of his existence except the baptism, and nothing shown of his residence in Virginia, whilst Dannett is mentioned in several wills down to 1706, and he was clearly shown to be in Virginia in 1690.

The cases, therefore, of Paul and James having resided in Virginia rest on the same foundation—tradition and conjecture. It seems more prudent, therefore, to unite George Abney to the tree by dotted lines, to indicate that there is a want of direct evidence—but there is no reasonable doubt respecting the issue of George.

Captain William Abney, his son, about the time of the Revolution, left Virginia and settled in South Carolina. His first grant of land was in Colleton County, in 17—, and later he obtained grants in 96 District. These lands adjoined each other, and were on the sea coast, where the settlers chiefly lived, and all were originally in Colleton County; 96 was afterwards divided into five counties, of which Edgefield was one, and Abbeville. Abraham, and his son, Nathaniel, settled there, and had land in Camden District. The Records of the Colleton County were all burnt by the Northern Army in the Civil War; 96, and Abbeville County, by an accidental burning of the Court Buildings after the war. The early records of Camden District are not in existence, so that the Wills of Abraham, Dr. Nathaniel, and others, cannot be given, but very fortunately the records of Edgefield have been preserved. The Will of Dannett the 2nd was destroyed at the burning of the Court Buildings, in Hannover, Va., by the Northern troops, in the Civil War.

Captain William, according to tradition, was the eldest son of George, but he is not mentioned first, nor was he first of the Executors. Possibly this arose from absence. He was said to have been a soldier in early life, and may have been absent on duty. There was much fighting with the Indians. He died in Halifax. His grants after he went to South Carolina are on file at Columbia. His father, George, is said to have changed his residence from Henrico, Va., to Halifax, but owing to the defects in the Henrico Parish Vestry Book (edited by R. A. Brock), the non-existence of the Parish Register as to letter A (the Book is now at Richmond), and the fact that some of the early records of Henrico County (destroyed in the Civil War), and of all the records of Nausemond County (where Lieutenant Paul was said to have settled), no proof with respect to George's ancestry has as yet been found.

It would seem that at the early period it was not compulsory to record deeds, and it was not always done. This is shown by the fact that the records of Halifax are complete, and yet do not show how Abraham obtained certain property there which he disposed of to his family.

Mr. John Routledge Abney, the head of the American family, is an honour to his English relations. Imbued with the high principles of truth and integrity, which characterised the Southern States, and especially Virginia—that most English province of the Great American Continent, he is not afraid, when called upon, to speak out boldly for the truth.

In an address delivered at Wofford College, South Carolina, on the 11th June, 1900, although a citizen of the State of New York, he did not hesitate to denounce the want of truth, the inconsistency with the great principles which were laid down at the time of the great rebellion, by Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and others, in their practices, when fraud, faithlessness, and dishonesty, had prevailed, rather than the great ideas of the Revolution. He has not hesitated to point out in the States themselves, and especially in his own State of South Carolina, that the Whigs in their conduct by departing from and acting against the principles of their declaration, have sullied the national name, and debased their country. Instead of freedom and brotherly kindness, they have behaved as tyrants and oppressors of their own kindred, and especially have they disgraced their country in the traffic and dealings with the Indians.

It must require no slight courage and honesty to remind the rulers of Washington, that when negotiating upon Canadian territory, their perfidy and dishonesty was cast into their teeth by the Cherokees. The whole story is so shocking, that it is due to Mr. Abney to give his own words:—"To make a long story short: 'The white man's burden' became so great that he had to get another treaty from the Cherokees in 1835, by which they ceded him all the lands claimed or possessed by them east of the Mississippi River. This treaty with the United States was made by only twenty of the chiefs and headmen; and a great part of the nation refused to be bound by it. They clung to their lands for two or three years, until General Scott was ordered to go with a sufficient military force to remove them. He issued an address to them in which, among other things, he said: 'I am an old warrior, and have been present at many a scene of

slaughter, but, spare me, I beseech you, the horror of witnessing the destruction of the Cherokees.' It is needless to say, the Indians, except a few hidden away in the mountains, went: and the Secretary of War wrote: 'The *generous and enlightened* policy evinced in the measures adopted by Congress toward that people during the last session was ably and judiciously carried into effect by the general appointed to conduct their removal.' The misery, suffering and anguish caused to those eighteen thousand men, women and children, trudging hundreds of miles away from their homes and the graves of their ancestors to an unknown wilderness, do not seem to have caused the white man in the war office any sensation save one of felicitation. I need not trace the history of the Cherokees beyond the Mississippi; nor will I trace the history of any other Indian tribe. Suffice it to say, that as we have dealt with the Delawares and Cherokees, so have we dealt with the others. The injustice with which we have treated the others, to say nothing of the suffering and slaughter we have inflicted upon them, will shock the historian of American civilization. It is no wonder that Sitting Bull said: 'Tell them at Washington if they have *one* man who speaks the truth to send him to me and I will listen to what he has to say.' How humiliating it must have been to our Commissioners when they went to him in his retreat in Canada to get him to return to the United States, and he said to them: 'You come here to tell us lies; we don't want to hear them!' And what a commentary it was when 'The Crow,' one of his chiefs, shook hands with the British officers and said to our Commissioners; '*These people that don't hide anything; they are all the people I like.*'"

Nor is it only in denunciation of the past that Mr. Abney deals out to his fellow-countrymen. He points out clearly and decisively the terrible effects which must and do result from their policy of excessive tariffs, and of their mushroom "Trusts," which result from it.

Mr. Abney is indeed one reflecting the old English principle of honesty, an honour not only to his adopted country of America, but to his name and family. He is a worthy representative of the great house of Albini, which for a thousand years has flourished in England.

The following records are the earliest relating to the Abney family that have yet been found:—

At a Court held for York County, Virginia, Sept. 26, 1692. Present: Mr. Joseph King, Mr. Robert Read, Captain Thomas Ballard, Capt. Peter Temple, Capt. Thomas Mountford, Capt. Charles Haresford,

Justices. Dannett Abney, Assignee of Thomas Pate, arresting John Lovett to this Court, and not filing his petition, is now nonsuited, with costs. A copy teste. P. J. Hudgins, Clerk.

At a Court held for York County, 25th May, 1696, Dannett Abney appointed Mr. Robert Hide his general attorney, on whose request he was accordingly entered on record.

The history of this transaction is unknown. Thomas Pate was a member of a Leicester family, and probably akin to the Leighs of Asfordby, where some of them resided, and where Dannett Abney's mother's family lived. They appear to have settled with him in Virginia. This action is of interest to show that Dannett Abney was already settled in Virginia, in Henrico County, where we first find the Abneys as landowners.

Thomas Pate was of York Parish, Va., he died in the year 1703. His Will is dated the 7th April of that year, and proved the 25th Oct.; it was attested by Peter Gibson, John Williams, and Daniel Jackson. Unfortunately it gives no evidence relating to his family. He left a small legacy to Mrs. Margaret Read, daughter of Robert Read, part of his property to Joan Lawson (wife of the John Lawson of that parish), and one-third of it to Elizabeth, his wife, the residue he gave to Rowland Pierson, whom he appointed his Executor, Robert Read and Capt. Lawrence Smith his Trustees.

The only matter of interest in the Will is his bequest of his freedom to his negro man, called Tony. He recites, "I have several times promised it him for his true and faithful service, and I hereby will and declare that he shall be free from all manner of slavery that shall be demanded of him by any person or persons whatsoever, and yt immediately after my decease he be at liberty to depart ye country, according to law, and further, my will and desire is yt my Executor hereafter named be an assistant to him in his transportation."

At a Court held for York County, 24th February, 1701, Dannett Abney obtained judgment against John Hilliard, Executor of Alexander Younge, on a bond debt of £4. This John Hilliard was a witness to Thomas Pate's Will.

The first Indenture yet discovered is one dated the 30th August, 1728, between Thomas East, senior, of the Parish of St. Paul's, and County of Hannover, planter, of the one part, and George Abney, of the same Parish and County, of the other part, whereby the said Thomas East, in consideration of one thousand nine hundred pounds

of tobacco to him, in hand, paid by the said George Abney before the ensealing and delivery thereof, and for other good causes and considerations him thereunto moving, thereby granted, aliened, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, and confirmed to the said George Abney one tract or dividend of land, lying and being in the County of Henrico, on the north side of James River, and on a creek commonly called Gillies Creek Cutting, and bounding as follows: viz., beginning at a corner pine of the land of John Bailey and running south half-west 78 poles to a white oak, and S.E. 62 poles to a pine, thence south 72 poles to a pine, and E.S. 71 poles to a pine, thence N.E. and by E. 78 poles across the southern branch of Gillies Creek to a white oak, so down the said branch to the place where it first began, being by estimation 200 acres, and being part of 404 acres which the said Thomas East, senr., purchased of John Robinson, by "a conveyance under hand and seal, dated the 1st day of August, 1704, which said 404 acres being divided between John Leson and George Abney," and the same being part of 832 acres granted to the said Robinson, by Patent dated 24th April, 1703. with warranty and covenants of title as verbose as any of English manufacture. Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of Thomas T. East, junior, John Z. Robertson, and Alexander H. Robertson, with a memorandum that quiet and peaceable possession and seizen was done by the delivery of turf and twig.

At a Court held for the County of Henrico, the 1st of Sept., 1728, Thos. East acknowledged the Deed to be his, whereupon it was admitted to be received. Test., Bowler Cocks, Cl. Cur.

Two Patents dated the 28th Sept., 1728 (Land Office, Richmond, Book 13, pages 380, 434). King George II., in the 2nd year of his reign, granted Thomas Hill and Dannett Abney, of Spotsylvania County, 419 acres, beginning at George Woodrout and Dannett Abney, junr., corner, thence N. to Joseph Powells, T. William Gooch, Lieutenant-Governor at Williamsburg. It would seem from the charter that both Dannett Abney, senr., and Dannett Abney, junr., were alive at this date. The omission of the word junior cannot be an accident, since if the elder Dannett was dead, his son would not be called the younger, and it proves more, since it establishes the fact that Dannett Abney, the younger, in his father's lifetime, was already a landowner in the district. The other grant was to Denet Abney, of 381 acres in the same place, again beginning at George Woodrout's, thence

proceeding North East. 4th Dec., 1731, Dannett Abney, junr., sold this 381 acres to Zachary Lewis, for 4,120 lbs. of tobacco. To this charter (which was by lease and release, English fashion) Mary, the wife of the said Dannett Abney, junr., concurred to bar her dower. (Court for Spotsylvania.) It may be noted that Dannett Abney, senr., had also a wife named Mary.

5th Feb., 1732. Dannett Abney made his Will, which was proved in Virginia the 5th March, 1733, by which he made his wife (Mary) sole Executrix, and gave all his estate, real and personal, to her and to her disposal. Unfortunately he does not give his place of residence, though he refers to it; nor (assuming that he was Dannett, senr.), does he refer to his son, Dannett, but he states that if the estate on which he resides is not sold before his wife's death, that she should give it to her two sons, Paul and Abner, and that he had other children is clear from his desire that his wife should give the rest of the estate to the children that were most dutiful to her. This Will was attested by Paul, Abner, and Mary Abney, and by William Triesty.

4th Nov., 1735. *Mary Abney, of Hannover County and Parish of St. Paul's*, sold 209½ acres in Spotsylvania (being part of a larger tract, granted to Thomas Hill and Dannett Abney by Patents dated the 28th Sept., 1728, beginning in Zachary Lewis' line and being in the Parish of St. George's, Spotsylvania County), to Thos. Hickman (Spotsylvania).

This grant clearly establishes the identity of Dannett Abney, the grantee of the land in Spotsylvania with Dannett Abney of Hannover, that is with Dannett Abney, the elder.

20th June, 1733, is a Patent from the King, granting to Dannett Abney and Abraham Abney, 570 acres in Henrico County, on the N. side of James River, bounded by George, Dannett's, and Abraham Abney's land to a gurn on the west side of Gillies Creek (Land Office, Richmond, Book 15, page 71). The Will of Dannett, the elder, was proved 5th March, preceding this grant, and dated 5th Feb., 1732, so that probably this was a new grant to his sons jointly.

2nd March, 1742, Anthony Pounay sold Paul Abney 100 acres in Goochland, and in 1750, Paul Abney sold John Graves 100 acres in Albemarle.

26th Aug., 1748, Patent to Dannett Abney, of 290 acres in Hannover County, on the east side of Chickahominy Creek, to be held of

the King's Manor of East Greenwich, in fee and common socage, and not in capite or by Knight service, but with privileges of hunting, hawking, fishing, rowling, at the rent of one shilling for every 50 acres. The grantee to cultivate and improve 3 acres, part of every 50 acres, within three years, or in default, the grant to be void (Richmond, Va., Book 25, page 549).

It is doubtful whether this grant was made to Dannett Abney, the younger. It is probable that the grantee was a younger son of George Abney. Dannett Abney, the younger, was alive at this date is clear, from a Deed made the 10th Nov., 1763, by Mary, his widow and executrix. His Will is only known from this Deed, which recites that it was dated the 3rd Nov., 1756; and it also recites a Patent to the said Dannett Abney, dated 9th Aug., 1759, of 800 acres of land in Halifax County, on Licker branch, which was then conveyed to Nathaniel Spraggins, of Halifax County.

On the 10th Aug., 1759, there is a Patent to Dannett Abney of 800 acres in Lunenburg, on the branches of the Staunton River (Richmond, Book 31, page 328).

25th Sept., 1755, Thomas Pruett, of Halifax, granted to Dannett Abney, of Lunenburg, 98 acres of land in Halifax, T. Elizabeth Hunt, Nat. Abney, and John Dean (Halifax C.C., Va.). The grantee of this land was clearly the son of George. See his deed of 14th Jan., 1766.

24th Nov., 1755, Bond between Samuel Morris and Dannett Abney, of Hannover County, and Nathaniel Wilksing, respecting the main run of the Chickahominy River, being the boundary between their respective lands with the award.

5th Sept., 1751, Abner (son of Dannett Abney) by his Will, left his estate to his wife, Anne, for her life, afterwards to be divided between her children, John, Elisha and Milly, proved in Albemarle C.C., 11th June, 1752.

Mr. R. A. Brock, in his account of the Vestry Book of Henrico, Virginia, 1730-73, gives a few notices of the Abney family, proving their residence between those dates, and that the boundaries between the properties of Abraham and George Abney, with that of Alexander Robertson, in Gillies Creek, was processioned in 1735. This was a similar proceeding to beating the bounds, used in England, but it does not appear that actual beating was inflicted; probably this process was only adopted when disputes had arisen, or were likely to arise between the planters.

George Abney was appointed a processioner 21st July, 1739 (? 1740), and on page 57 of Mr. Brock's book is his certificate that he had renewed the bounds of the lands assigned to him on Gillies Creek, which included lands between Capt. Joseph, Mayor, and the Widow Abney, no doubt the widow of Dannett, senior, who, according to Mr. J. Rutledge Abney, was his aunt.

There are no charters which can be fairly attributed to Paul Abney, whom Mr. J. R. Abney identifies with the Lieutenant of Captain Sharpe's sloop. None of his date have been discovered, and the first of Dannett's which has been found (that of 1728, made 36 years after his residence in Virginia is established), showing that he was then a planter of substance. Contemporary with him, George, the first of his name, was purchasing property, see the first Charter found related to him. The two Charters of Paul Abney, of the year 1750 relate, no doubt, to the son of Dannett, senior, whose existence is established by his Will of 1732.

By a Patent of 20th Aug., 1750, the King (George II.) granted to George Abney, whom Mr. J. R. Abney identifies with the grantee of 1728, 420 acres of land in Lunenburg, on the branches of the Staunton River, near James Hunt's land, on Fuquas' line. (Richmond, Book 34, page 657.)

11th July, 1761. King George III. granted George Abney 360 acres in Lunenburg County, beginning at Dannett and Abraham Abney's four corner red oak saplings, to the said George's own line. (Land Offices, Richmond, Va.)

16th March, 1762. Indenture between George Abney, of the County of Halifax and Parish of Antrim, and Mattox Mays (? Mayo), of same place; in consideration of £40, granted 200 acres lying in Halifax County, on both sides of the Mayse's Creek, along Abraham Abney's line on the Sapline Ridge. Tested by Unity, wife of George Abney, Nathaniel Abney, and Samuel Abney. (Halifax Records.)

By patent, 27th June, 1764, a grant of 400 acres in the County of Halifax (near William Roys and James Hart), was made to George Abney (Rich., Book 35, page 537). 6th Nov., 1764, George Abney, of Halifax, and Parish of Antrim, granted to Charles Haraway 360 acres in Halifax, on which Nathaniel Abney then lived, beginning at a White Oak between the said Abney and Mayes, and the Spraggins. William Glass's line, and R. Robertson, Hunts, T. Leonard Keeling, William Abney, George Tillage (Halifax Coy). The original grant of

this land to George Abney has not been found, it was probably made in their early settlement. It would appear that the tenant, Nathaniel Abney, was a younger son of Dannett Abney, junr., showing a direct connection between the families. William Abney is the first of that name known in America, and was probably son and heir of George, presently mentioned in his Will.

The Will of George Abney, of Halifax, is an important document, because no evidence of his succession or grant of his estates had been found; he describes himself as of Halifax County. It is dated the 13th Oct., 1765, and was proved the 16th Oct., the following year by the witnesses, the executors refusing to take upon themselves the execution thereof. They were his sons, Samuel and William, and at this date they had removed to South Carolina.

The Testator devised to his son Dannett, 240 acres of land adjoining John Fuquas' land in Sherlotte County (no grant of this property to the Testator has been found).

To his wife, he gave the plantation on which he then lived, being part of 400 acres, and was to contain 200 acres; the other 200 acres he gave to his son Samuel. He describes it as adjoining Captain Spraggins' land, and James Novrell, junr., on the great creek (a description too vague to allow it to be identified).

To his son, William Abney, he gave 200 acres, adjoining William Glass and Charles Harroway, no doubt part of his ancient land, and he bequeaths certain personalty to his son, Michael.

The Will was attested by Nathaniel Barjksdale, Thomas Spraggins, James Norvell, senr., and William Hill.

Administration was granted to David George (Halifax Records).

It may be noted that the Testator does not show any relationship to Dannett Abney's line, nor do any of them exhibit any relationship to George Abney's line.

17th Dec., 1767. Dannett Abney, of Halifax County, sold the 240 acres devised to him by his father in Charlotteville, to Thomas Spraggins, and the Deed was recorded in that county on the 4th April, 1768.

The 14th Jan., 1762, Dannett Abney and his wife Cassandra, of Halifax, sold to Thomas Hill, 98 acres in Halifax, on both sides of the Cotton Boar Creek, near John Baleson's. This property is identical in its boundaries and descriptions, with the land bought by Dannett Abney, 25th Sept. 1755, from William Prowett.

The Deed was attested by James Hill, Samuel Abney (brother of the Grantor), Ann Hill and Elizabeth Tery (Halifax Coy.).

Samuel Abney sold the 200 acres given to him by his father's will, to Thomas Spraggins, 17th July, 1767 29th August, 1768, Michael appointed Samuel his attorney, to sell his tract of land (which had been granted to George Abney by patent) to Thomas Spraggins.

The three brothers, Dannett, Samuel, and Michael, went to South Carolina, where they obtained grants of land. Dannett and Michael died during the Revolution, and Samuel in 1802.

The reputation of this branch of the family appears to have been maintained by William Abney, who was apparently the third son of George Abney. He was at an early date, possessed of considerable property, and took a leading part in the Revolution 1775-83, when he rose from a Lieutenantcy to be a Captain in the United States Army.

There is a record in the Historical Department (these records are only partly calendared), of South Carolina, dated the 9th Aug., 1785, an Indent was issued to William Abney, for £76 19s 11d., sterling, for duty done in the Militia of South Carolina during the Revolution, as Lieutenant and Captain (A. S. Salley, H. Secretary).

1st Sept., 1750, James Hunt, of Lunenberg, for £20, granted to William Abney, of Halifax, 185 acres, near Mayes Creek, in Ellesline, in the parish of Antrim, in which parish his father bought land in 1762, from Matox Mays, who sold the property to James Hunt. Nathaniel Abney, Thomas Childre and William Powell, attested James Hunt's signature (Halifax Records).

22nd Dec., 1761, Nathaniel Abney and William Abney sold to Matox Mays for £65, 370 acres in Halifax, on both sides of Mayes Creek, in Ellislina. T., William Hill, Abraham Abney, Joseph Mayes, Joseph East and John Mayes (Halifax Records).

In 1766, William Abney obtained 200 acres adjoining Wm. Glass and Charles Harroway, under his father's will.

29th Aug, 1768, for £20 William Abney sold to Thomas Spragin, 175 acres, in Thomas Spragins' line, by Wm. Glass' line and Wm. East's—probably the property left to him by his father (Halifax Records).

21st April, 1772, the King gave him a patent for 200 acres in Colleton County, on a branch of the Saluda called Terepin Creek, bounded by his own land, N.E., on Levi Pitland's, S., and Philip Hazel's land, with the privilege of hunting, hawking, and fowling upon the same, with mines and minerals, but saving all white pine trees, and

1st of all mines of gold and silver to the King, and 3/- to 4/- proclamation money for every 100 acres (South Carolina Records).

21st April, 1775, the King granted by patent, 200 acres, situate in 96th district in the halfway swamp, on the waters of Saluda River, bounded by lands of John Spillee, Patrick Dooby, Caleb Holloway, and John Spencer, including rights of fisheries, hunting, hawking, etc. (South Carolina Records)

1st Jan., 1785, grant from the State of America, of 200 acres in 96th district, Middle Terepin Creek. 21st Sept., 1785, 200 acres more, and Dec. 4th, 1786, 200 acres more in same district, and 3rd Dec., 1787, 400 acres (1000 acres in all).

William Abney having removed to South Carolina, lived there to a great age, and died Feb. 1832, intestate, having survived his eldest son Walter, who died in 1827. By his will, dated 8th Dec., 1827, and proved the 17th of the same month, Walter Abney gave to his daughter, Arathusa Brown, 100 acres of land; the S.E. corner of the land whereon he then resided, adjoining land claimed by Leroy Brown. To John R. Abney, his son, 175 acres on the south of his land. To his son Mastin, 175 acres of the same land. To his son William, another 175 acres, and the same to his son Simeon (together 800 acres); and he appointed Thomas Christian and his son, John R. Abney, his executors.

T., John Chapman, Michael Deloach, Abijah Abney.

Abraham Abney is mentioned in connection with Dannett Abney, junior, in a Patent of 1733, of 570 acres in Henrico County, near George Abney's, from which it may be presumed that they were brethren, and the sons of Dannett Abney, the first settler, who had just died; but in the absence of wills this can only be conjectured. There are 16 of Abraham's Charters enrolled, but unfortunately they give but little direct evidence of relationship.

4th Oct., 1745. Abraham and Cassandra, his wife, then of Hannover, granted to Isaac Brudney 172 acres, part of his former grant.

1st Sept., 1750. James Hunt granted to Nathaniel Abney, of Halifax, 185 acres in Antrim, north side of Mayes Creek.

10th April, 1751. The King granted 250 acres in Lunenburg to him.

14th Oct., 1753. William Mayes granted to him 196 acres in Halifax, he being then described as of Lunenburg.

16th Feb., 1757. Abraham Abney, then of Halifax, granted to Thomas Spragin 250 acres in Halifax.

1st August, 1757. He granted to the same 60 acres of land in Cornhill, in Lunenburg.

2nd August, 1757. He granted to the same 162 acres more in Lunenburg.

2nd Dec., 1757. He granted 400 acres to Thomas Cheldre, in Halifax, by Exelander Nelson's line.

20th August, 1760. He obtained a Patent from the King for 110 acres in Lunenburg.

19th Nov., 1760. With Cassandra, his wife, he granted 20 acres on Staunton River to William Spragin.

23rd Nov., 1760. With Cassandra, his wife, he granted 170 acres in Halifax to Nathaniel Barksdale.

16th Feb., 1763. He granted 100 acres to George Elliott.

23rd May, 1763. He obtained a Patent for 343 acres in Halifax, the Callow Creek.

3rd April, 1764. Then described as of Antrim. For £100 he gave 400 acres in Halifax, on Cullaboe Creek, to Nathaniel Abney, his son.

8th April, 1767. He granted 200 acres on Bate's Branch to Joseph Smith.

8th April, 1768. He granted 200 acres in the same place, to William Hill.

20th July, 1768. He had a Patent from the Crown for 400 acres in Halifax.

18th Feb., 1775. Abraham Abney and Nathaniel Abney, of Long Cain Mills, in 96 District, South Carolina, granted to Charles Gallaway 400 acres in Halifax County and Parish of Antrim, Va. which he had by Patent, 23rd May, 1763.

2nd July, 1778. Abraham Abney, of South Carolina and Camden District, granted to Benjamin Vaughan 243 acres at Calabar Creek, Halifax.

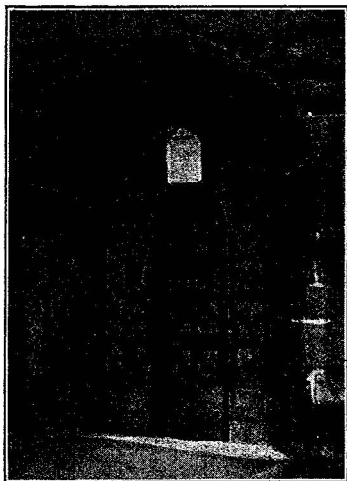
Comparing the Charters of Abraham and of Dannett, the younger, with those of George, it will be found that they were dealing for land in the same places and with the same people. Probably their own relations succeeded to the lands, and when the issue of George left Henrico for South Carolina, Abraham and Nathaniel went with them. This Nathaniel was a surgeon in the Revolution, as shown

by records in the Historical Department of South Carolina, and by a Patent of land to him in that State.

Reuben Abney, by Will of 14th Sept., 1805 (he had in some way succeeded to part of the estate of Dannett Abney, the younger) left all his estate to the Spragin family, who were of Henrico Parish in 1743 (Mr. Brock's History), and who succeeded to a greater part of the Abney lands in 1735. There was also another Nathaniel who went to South Carolina. He received Patents for 800 acres of land there, was a Captain in the Revolution, and died there in 1806 (South Carolina Records, Edgefield Co. Records). He was said to be a son of Dannett, junior, but owing to the Records of Hannover County, Va., having been destroyed, it cannot be verified.

CHAPTER V.

TIDESWELL



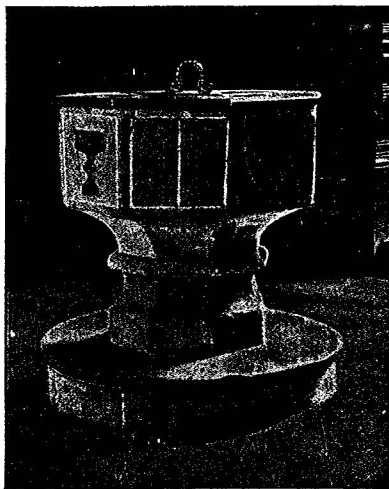
THE OLD CHURCH DOOR, TIDESWELL.

The early history of this parish is lost in obscurity, and it is only by fragmentary notices that anything positive can be learnt about it; yet it had a history, and probably a very important one, for its grand Church, with its interesting, though unknown monuments, proves that at one time it must have been the centre of a great religious influence over the whole of the Honour of Peak, for it had not gained its clear right to the title of the Cathedral of the Peak without a cause. The town itself is of small importance, formerly being only a hamlet of Hope, the Church of which has no pretensions to vie with it. Hope has,

indeed, only an ordinary Parish Church. We gain but little light from Lysons, who commenced his great series of County Histories with less pretension than that of the late reign, but with greater success, for Lysons finished his work at the letter D. The Victorian County, working on a new system, appears to collapse at the close of their first volumes, which are not properly county history. We can gain no light from it, and Lysons has but little to relate, though he was evidently anxious to be eloquent. Tideswell, he tells us, was celebrated "for the production of horned cattle, for a considerable quantity of cheese, and an abundance of calves." The two latter are naturally products of the first; but this is a bleak and bare country, which in these days has no such celebrity or prodigality; evidently Lysons, having nothing to relate, was making an absurd guess. Fortunately the Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher, who for some years was Vicar of this parish, has published a very valuable booklet upon Tideswell and its Church, from which the Author has had permission to make what use he pleases, and to him also the Author is indebted for the beautiful illustrations which adorn this chapter. As might be expected, Mr. Fletcher's book is chiefly valuable for the facts he has collected towards the history of the Church, and he has done good service to the archæologist, not only in illustration, but by sweeping away the cobwebs with which the pride of various local families has engrafted upon it. Upon the feudal history, unfortunately, the Author has to depend, in a great measure, upon his own industry; but even here Mr. Fletcher has done much to indicate the truth.

Before considering the feudal history, it is necessary seriously to grapple with the great problem why such a magnificent structure should have been raised in a district not even, apparently, favourable for the increase of horned cattle or the production of cheese. Here is a magnificent building, veritably a cathedral in the wilderness, and the only suggestion of a cause (and it may have been a sequence) was that once kings had here a palace, the very site of which is unknown, unless indeed the church is built upon it. Mr. Fletcher thinks that the old church was built on the site of the chancel of the present church. The history of the king's palace is lost, and there is nothing to show that this place was more favoured by our kings than was Castleton or Ashford-by-the-Water. The kings came here to hunt, and not to pray, and at the time of the building of this church the Plantagenet kings were not holy. Yet here is a structure

raised by pious hands, which must have been animated by great and noble motives, probably through the yearnings of some stricken soul, burdened by a great sorrow, which had conceived the noble aim of raising a monument which should exist for all time—a church in which prayers might be eternally offered up for the repose of the soul of one deeply beloved, who perhaps had been cut off in the flower of his days, suddenly, in the midst of the turmoil of existence, as Shakespeare has it, “unassoiled and unaneled.” In the present day such a purpose would be regarded by our superior teachers as stupid and superstitious ; but at the time of this creation, in the age of great wars, conducted not always for gain, but for high and noble purposes, it was both natural and proper, and the curious point is to discover by whom and for whose benefit and in whose honour this church was erected—surely only a sorrowing mother or a widowed heart could lay such a noble foundation. It cannot be overlooked



THE FONT.

that at this period there was a great and universal sorrow throughout the country called the black death, which might well inspire superstitious thoughts, and which afflicted both the sovereign and his people. The great and good Queen Philippa lost her second daughter, Johanna, of Woodstock, who was then in her fifteenth year, and who, say the chroniclers, was remarkable for her beauty and grace. Her's is a very sad story ; she was attacked by the plague at

Bayonne, where she went to be married to the son of the King of Castile. On the evening of her triumphal entry into the city she was seized by this fearful plague and died within a few hours; she was buried in the Cathedral on the very day and hour that was appointed for her marriage. King Edward and his Queen wrote to the King of Castile and his family a beautiful letter (which is preserved in the State Paper Office), and it is worthy of preservation, though it may not be part of Tideswell history. "Your daughter and ours," wrote the stricken parents, "was by nature wonderfully endowed with gifts and graces; but little does it now avail to praise them, or specify the charms of that beloved one, who is, oh, grief of heart! for ever taken from us. Yet the debt of mortality must be paid, however deeply sorrow may drive the thorn and our hearts be transpierced by anguish; nor will our sighs and tears cancel the inevitable law of nature. Christ, the Celestial Spouse, has taken the maiden bride to be His bride. She in her innocent and immaculate years has been transferred to the virgin choir in heaven, where for us below she will perpetually intercede." This letter, whether written by King Edward or by his Queen it matters not, is of value to us to show the ignorance and superstition of the period, as it will be said, which could produce such a church, and how easily in such a time a great work like this might be done. There is nothing bitter or unhappy in this touching letter; to one who can enter into its spirit, it rather proves the contrary. But there was another sorrow in the life of the Queen which would be regarded very differently. It may, indeed, be that this church was erected not because of one great trial, but of several in succession, and assuredly the good Queen Philippa had many sorrows in her life. Her motto was, "*Iche wrude muche*," which bears a deep meaning.

It may appear rash to make a suggestion when there is so little to support it, and it is offered only as a possible explanation of otherwise a profound mystery. But it naturally arises upon the date of the rebuilding of the church, which can only be fixed by its style, for the exact date of the restoration is unknown; but from its details it must have been rebuilt in the time of Edward III. Tideswell has always been a royal residence, probably from the time of the Conquest, because it was the heart of the hunting country; but very little is known of it.

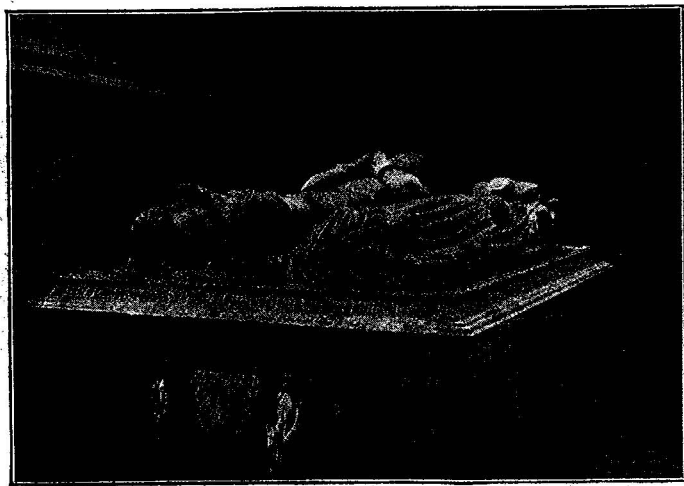
We are indebted to Miss Agnes Strickland for some of the details relating to Queen Phillipa, including her beautiful letter just

quoted. The world indeed owes a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Strickland for the production of her lives of the Queens of England—a work of deep research, nobly executed. No one admired and used it more extensively than Lord Campbell when writing his lives of the Lord Chancellors, though unfortunately he had not the grace to acknowledge it.

It is not to be supposed that this church owes its magnificence to King Edward III., for he was not generally a holy man; but in his reign, besides the horrors of the black death, the country was penetrated by a great grief, which must have been a universal sorrow, through the loss of his son, the glorious Black Prince, the hero of Crecy and Poitiers, who was cut off in the flower of his life. This might well affect his mother and the Princess of Wales, his widow, with all their kindred, in an extraordinary degree, and they were all closely associated with Tideswell, and probably often resided there. King Edward III. gave the Castle and Honour of the Peak to his Queen as part of her jointure, and here possibly the royal children were born and nurtured. The Prince married when he was about 30 years old, a very beautiful woman, known to history as the Fair Maid of Kent, a history probably little understood; it is obscured by hints and even by calumnies, but assuredly she was a true lover of her husband. She may have assisted in raising this beautiful structure. Little is known of the Princess of Wales, but there is a statement which requires to be verified and amended, for the date and something more is erroneous. In 11 Edward III., it is said, Johanna, Queen of England, gave a messuage and land in Wormhill, in the Parish of Tideswell, to Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Meverill. There was no Johanna, Queen of England, at that date—at that time Philippa was Queen.

In the 33rd year of King Edward III. (the year of the Prince's marriage), it appears from an entry on the Patent Roll of 1 Rich. II., that the King made a grant to this same lady, Elizabeth Meverill, and in the same year the Castle and Honour of Peak to his younger son, the Duke of Lancaster, the great John of Gaunt, who was, of course, closely associated with Tideswell, though not likely to rebuild the church, and here no doubt he came into contact with Sir Godfrey Foljambe, whose son he in the same year appointed his senescal, and later, in 10 Rich. II., he appointed his son, Sir Thomas Foljambe, of Walton, surveyor of the Peak.

It does not follow that the Great Tomb, which still remains in the church (though not in its original position), was erected to the memory of the Black Prince, who was buried at Canterbury; but at that date many altar tombs and crosses were erected to the same individual, and it is at least more likely than that it should have been erected to the honour of a fictitious knight, one Sir



THE GREAT TOMB

(wrongly called the De Bower Tomb).

Thurstan de Bower, who undoubtedly was a well known tradesman in Tideswell, a dealer in those cheeses and beasts over which Lysons has grown so eloquent. A gentleman who claims descent from this worthy man has not only post-knighted him, but has recorded on this tomb that it was erected especially to his memory.

John of Gaunt was said to have been not a son of the Queen, but of a common person of that city, who was born about this period, whom the Queen adopted because, by accident, she had overlaid her own child, a daughter, and dare not inform the King; a most unlikely story, though well believed at the time, but absurd, because she was a truly good woman in every respect. It is said that the child was much like his father and the Black Prince in person, and therefore it was argued that the fraud was impossible. But at this date King Edward had already become unfaithful to his Queen, and it is not impossible, and more likely, that he was the

father of a bastard son, whom he exchanged for the dead Princess, under pretence of saving the Queen from pain. His affection to him afterwards would seem to make it impossible that he could have been deceived—he was, indeed, a man far more likely to deceive. Perhaps this was the groundwork of a story current that the Queen, on her deathbed, confessed this crime against her excellent husband to William of Wyckham, Bishop of Winchester, and prayed him that “if ever it chanced that this son of a Flemish porter affecteth the kingdom, he would make his stock and lineage known to the world, lest a false heir should inherit the throne of England:” a beautiful legend, invented probably for a purpose. Archbishop Parker, in his History of Edward III, notices this scandal, and although not believing in the story, with the meanness of the non-conformist, attributes its origin to the Catholics, because John of Gaunt was a decided partisan of Wycliffe, and he was, of course, a loose liver. His mistress, Catherine Roet, was sister of Philippa of Picardy (one of the women of the Queen’s bedchamber); they were the daughters of an attendant of the Queen, whom she employed in Guienne in a humble capacity. There was not much religion either in King Edward or his son, John of Gaunt, that they need be suspected of having benefitted Tideswell Church.

The only issue of the Black Prince who ascended the throne was Richard II., whose sovereignty was usurped by the eldest son of John of Gaunt, and eventually the crown descended to his spurious descendants by Catherine Roet (who was a married woman at the commencement of their liaison). A fitting pedigree for the mother of King Henry VIII., one of the worst men who ever lived. Poor Queen Philippa, on her deathbed, may have feared that her husband’s crime might have terrible results, although at that time there was apparently no reason to suppose that the monarchy would be so debased. Those who are passing away are popularly supposed to be capable of prophetic utterances, but in fact, their minds are at such times less clouded and more penetrating, and the dying Queen may have foreseen and foreboded approaching ruin, for her sons were unruly men.

Several families have been anxious to claim this tomb as their own, but if not dedicated to any royal personage it is far more likely to have been erected to the husband of Elizabeth Meverill, to whom King Edward made a grant in the 33rd year of his reign, Sir

Nicolas Stafford, who fought with the Black Prince at Poitiers and who was succeeded by his brother, Sir Richard Stafford. They were closely associated with royalty. Anne, daughter of Thomas de Woodstock, son of Edward III., married Edmund, 5th Earl of Stafford, amongst whose grandsons were these two knights, Nicolas and Richard Stafford, consequently they were great-nephews of the Black Prince, and therefore proper recipients of the king's ancient demesne. Sir Nicolas died without issue, and Tideswell should have reverted to John Meverill, at once cousin and heir of the Lady Elizabeth Stafford, but he only obtained possession of Throwley and other portions of the Meverill inheritance.

Tideswell was granted by the crown to Edmund Stafford, the famous Bishop of Exeter, by whom this tomb may have been erected. He was the nephew of Sir Nicolas, the second son of Sir Richard Stafford, Baron Stafford of Clifton, 1371, by Isabelle, his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Vernon, of Haddon.

Edmund Stafford was great-nephew of Ralf de Stafford, first Earl of that family. He quickly rose to power, first Prebend of Lichfield, then Dean of York; in 1389 Keeper of the Privy Seal, 1394 Bishop of Exeter, 1396-9 Lord High Chancellor of England until the abdication of Richard II.; in 1 Henry IV. he assented to the King's imprisonment; 1402-3 he was sworn of the Privy Council, a very learned man and a great patron of learning; he refounded Stapilden Hall, Oxford, and raised it to be Exeter College, as it is called to this day. It is quite possible this great man assisted in rebuilding the church, and perhaps erected the monument in honour of his uncle. At all events his claims to it are as good as those of his contemporary, the lately-knighted cheesemonger.

The great Bishop did not appear to have enjoyed the estate very long, he conveyed it away to trustees, for what purpose is unknown, and then it was granted by the crown, in 4 Henry VI., to John Meverill, of Throwley. It is rather curious to see that this baronial family of Stafford has been annexed (with no greater right than that of the adventurous family of Bowers) by the descendants of a modern family of the same name, who subsequently served them as stewards. They were seized of a bovate of land in Eyam, in the time of John, and were so called probably long before the baronial family assumed the name of Stafford (their proper name being Bagot), and they only took the name upon the marriage of their ancestor with the heiress

of the great house of Stafford, as Mr. Round calls them, "a conquestal family," upon whom he erroneously endeavours to graft the Gresleys of Drakelow. It is not known that the Staffords of Eyam were ever called Bagot.

The question of the misappropriation of tombs in Tideswell Church does not rest with that of the so-called de Bower monument. An even greater act of vandalism has been perpetrated upon probably the most ancient tomb in the church, which now stands in the middle of the chancel, and is known as the Meverill tomb. It was not



THE CHANCEL, WITH THE FOUNDER'S TOMB

(wrongly attributed to the Meverills).

erected to any Meverill. That it is now out of its proper position cannot be doubted. The Rev. Mr. Fletcher (p. 20 of the 3rd Edition of his work) points out that "against the north wall of the chancel are two slightly projecting low arches; one of them would mark the place of the Founder's tomb, the other is supposed to have been the Easter Sepulchre, or place in which in old times the consecrated elements of the Holy Eucharist were deposited from the evening

of Good Friday until the morning of Easter Day; but from its resemblance to the other, it more probably marked the burial place of a cofounder, or some other great benefactor of the church."

Mr. Fletcher's second thought is the best; side by side, originally, most probably were these two tombs, that of the original Founder, now named Meverill, and that of his successor, which would, of course, be of a later date, and which may well have been that now called the De Bower tomb. The elder was evidently the tomb now standing in the middle of the chancel, and which has been appropriated, probably equally improperly, by the Meverill family. This was done, as the arms upon it show, after the death of Sir Sampson Meverill, which occurred in 1462, probably in the time of King Henry VII, when many other things besides tombs were turned topsy turvy, and new ideas, and very bad ones, were supplanting the old, the too sudden fruits of the art of printing.

It is absurd to suppose that this Meverill tomb was erected at this period; it is probably several centuries earlier, and most likely it would be an old tomb at the date of the rebuilding of the chancel. This misappropriation is evident from the fact that through the openings at the side of the tomb the stone effigy of a man, apparently not a knight, is visible, represented at the time of his death, wrapped in a winding-sheet, with his head supported by angels. "A strange contrast," writes Mr. Fletcher, "to the brasses upon the exterior of the tomb, which tell of his earthly greatness." The effigy points to the the earthly end of all, whatever their worldly position may be. Strange, indeed, but does not the incongruity show that it was impossible? To Mr. Fletcher we are indebted for details which proclaim loudly of the desecration under Tudor barbarity of a most holy monument, one of the highest veneration. This tomb was an altar tomb, there are five crosses cut in the marble, near each of the four corners and in the centre, showing that it had been so used; in the centre is a curious symbolical representation of the Holy Trinity, around which is the inscription, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." God the Father is represented as seated beneath a canopy, holding a crucifix in front of Him, on which hangs the human form of God the Son, whilst above the right shoulder rests a dove, the emblem of the Holy Ghost.

At the four corners of the tomb are symbols of the evangelists. On the scrolls under the evangelists are the legends appropriate for

each of them. For St. Matthew, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." St. Mark, "He that is baptised shall be saved." St. Luke, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." St. John, "Those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder." Of course, the last scroll indicates that marriages were celebrated at this altar. And it is curious to find that in these days, when the sanctity of marriage is almost a thing of the past, the old respect for this altar tomb still clings to it, even in its altered position, for Mr. Fletcher tells us "that from old custom the offertory is counted and the marriage register always signed upon it." These symbols and superstitions could have no reference to the Meverills, but cling to the older rites attached to the stone. Quite possibly it was placed in its present position when Sir Sampson Meverill was buried under it; but his splendid services to the Earl of Salisbury and the Duke of Bedford, recorded upon it, should be given apart from it. It is Tudor blasphemy to confound them, although his arms and a scroll relative to his services have been carefully let in upon the surface of the tomb, which proves the desecration. Mr. Fletcher has made profound and valuable observations upon the history of this magnificent chancel, which indicate still more plainly that this altar tomb is out of its rightful use and place. Though honoured in so extraordinary degree, in spite of its desecration, he tells us that probably the earlier church stood upon the site of the present chancel; and he has done much towards actual proof, by exposing the rubble walling work on the inside of the chancel arch, amongst which are traceable the remains of Norman architecture, and by removal of the west gallery he has brought to light various stones built into the wall which had evidently formed part of the arches of the doorways or windows of an earlier building. Can it be doubted that this old altar tomb was the high altar of that ancient church?

There are other tombs in the church which several different families desire to appropriate, but, alas, without much authority. The chief amongst them was appropriated 200 years ago, and the appropriation was confirmed in 1875 by the present Earl of Liverpool as that of John Foljambe, who died in 1358 (or, as is also stated, in 1383). This requires better proof than is offered. This tomb is on the north side of the chancel, near to the two projecting low arches, but within the altar rails. The old brasses are gone (stolen or lost) many years ago; probably stolen, for brass was of value, even

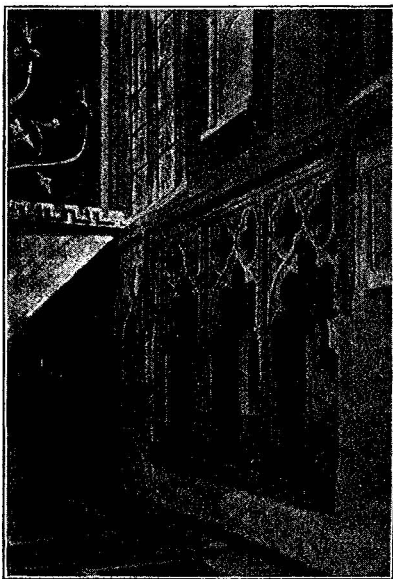
in the Peak. About two centuries since (it is said) someone put up a new brass "in order to keep alive the memory of the person buried." The inscription is in Latin, stating that it is the tomb of John, son of Sir Thomas Foljambe, who died 4th August, 1358, and who did many good things with regard to the building of the church. This inscription was engraved on a piece of brass let into the middle of the stone. Mr. Fletcher records that in a MS. of the early part of the 18th century this new brass is described as appearing "very ancient, though wrote in Roman characters." The writer of this note could not have been very learned, or he would have known that very ancient inscriptions were generally written in those characters. But the evidence of the mis-appropriation of this monument does not rest here; there is a MS. preserved in the Bodleian Library, recording the result of a visit to Tideswell in 1674, which states that the Latin inscription was round the margin of the tomb (where generally such inscriptions are to be found), and this was to the effect that "it was the tomb of John, son of Sir Thomas Foljambe, who died on the 4th day of Aug., A.D. 1383, who did many good things with regard to the first building of the church." This inscription commences in a very unusual manner, as "Tumulus Johannis filius Dni Thomæ Foljambe." The usual commencement is *Hic jacet*, and the words following giving the date a second time are not only out of place but unusual at that date, which tends to throw doubt upon the whole of them. The Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher discredits the idea of this inscription having been in the matrix, as it is too lengthy. The legend is followed by a pious exhortation, "You who read this verse often think of what will follow. I am a vile corpse, and you will be a corpse (1383)." Which of these two inscriptions is to be credited? Probably neither of them. This last inscription is manifestly faulty in the date, and it is also absurd to suppose that a man who died that year could have been the builder of that church. Lord Liverpool has rejected the inscription altogether; but with less reason he has adopted the smaller inscription, and writes of John "as the builder of the church," which is still more unlikely; and the probabilities would appear to be that if Foljambe was the name of the first occupant, he was Thomas, and not John, as the tomb would accord more nearly with the date of one named Thomas. The Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, the learned author of Leicestershire historical works, has written upon this inscription in the *Reliquary*. His own view is that

the inscription recorded by Ralf Sheldon (A. Wood's) in the Bodleian is the correct version. He notes three variations from the new brass, which he concludes arose from the loss of the old one, the new scribe writing from memory. In a point of such difficulty, however, it is extremely dangerous to speculate, and the most that can be said is that tradition points to the tomb as belonging to the Foljambe family, but that there is no proof of it.

Lord Liverpool's mistake, in supposing that John Foljambe was builder of the church, no doubt arises from the fact that in 16 R. II., Roger Foljambe, with Sir Nicolas Stafford and others, had license to found a Chantry in Tideswell. When the excellent Protestants had devoured the lands they would be unwilling to suggest that any donor of the family could be so lost in ignorance and superstition as to give lands for such a purpose, and therefore lied in the inscription by changing his object to building the church.

Curiously the number of unknown monuments in this church does not rest here. There are several of which no effort has been made to identify them, and no pretence of tradition is known, except that with regard to the two most important, a pair of figures lying at the back of the organ in the north transept, they were popularly supposed to be representations of Adam and Eve; but there is no evidence that our first parents ever came to Tideswell or that Cain or their later children erected stone monuments to their memory. This tradition may be safely rejected as well as the shadowy notion "that they are traditionally believed to represent ladies of the Foljambe family" as stated by Lord Liverpool, who also half claimed the de Bower tomb, as belonging to his family; others have claimed them as belonging to the Lytton family; but these claims have been made in ignorance of the true history of the town. Mr. Fletcher has demolished the beautiful Adam and Eve theory by proving that they are both female figures of different dates, and that an inspection of the figures show that they were not originally placed on the same side of the church, in fact the Reformers were sad thieves and Goths; they stole the brasses for the sake of the metal, and kicked about the sacred monuments without any respect for whom they represented, we owe it to the piety and learning of the later Priests of the Church of England, that so much has been recovered and restored. Besides, these claims are unfounded; neither the Foljambes nor the Lyttons would even have a right of burial here. The first were a very ancient

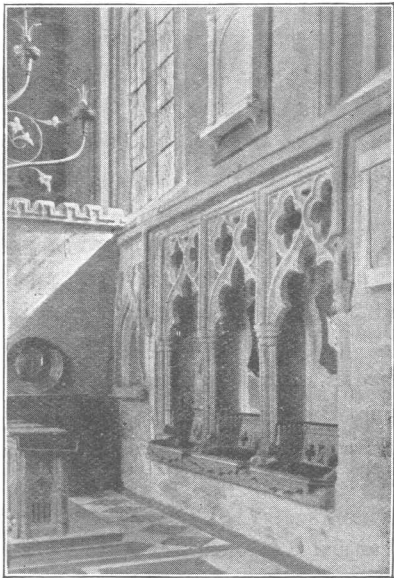
family, Foresters of Fee of Wormhill, where their monuments should be found ; they did good things, no doubt, in endowing the gild in this church, but that is a very different thing from building the church itself ; they were never chief tenants of the Manor, but merely farmers of it under the Meverills. The first tenants were the de Lamelys, whose family is unknown, the Pincernas (the Albinis), the Staffords and the Meverills, without resorting to the possibility of Royalty, there are several ladies of high rank connected with the



THE SIDELIA.

ancient Lords of the Manor, Agnes D'oille, wife of Thomas, the Esquire, the Lady Rose, daughter of Roger Deincourt, was wife of an Albini. The three coheirs of the last Pincerna (Albini), were Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Meverill, of Throwley, Catherine, who married Sir Thos. Curzon, and Johanna, wife of Sir John Turvill, and finally the lady, Elizabeth Stafford ; but looking at the beauty and size of this glorious church, it is not too much to suppose that some of these tombs and figures were erected to members of the Royal family, several of whom resided in Tideswell. John of Gaunt had three wives, of whose burial nothing is known.

Nothing is to be learnt from Domesday. Tideswell was part of the



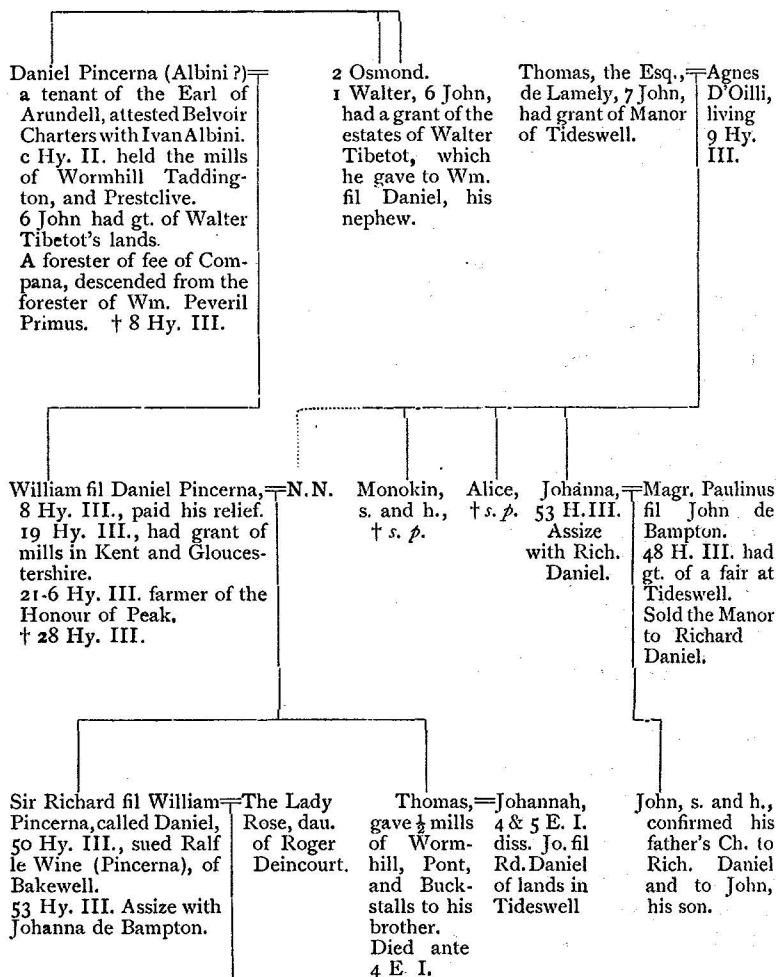
THE SIDELIA.

King's ancient demesne, a Berewite of Hope, which in the time of the Confessor, with Bakewell and Ashford, had rendered £30 5½ sectaries of money and 5 wainloads of lead, of 50 tables. Then William Peveril kept it (custodit) at a rent of £10 6s. Unfortunately, the Demesne Rolls, upon which it should have been entered, are lost, and all that is known is that, with the rest of the Peveril estates, it was, in the reign of Henry II., in the King's hands.

The Forest Rolls unfortunately, although they give much valuable information respecting the inhabitants, do not of purpose record changes in the ownership, and we can only recover a few facts from the Pipe Rolls. This parish continued to be a chapelry of the great parish of Hope, which extended over the greater part of the Peak, until it was given with it to the Bishop of Coventry, probably to cover some greater villainy of his own, by Prince John during King Richard's captivity in 1192. In 7 John the King gave the Manor, of course illegally, as a portion of his own estate, to Thomas de Lamely, Notts, who is only known by the name of the Esquire probably from the office which he held under the King; in 10 John, Thomas, the Esquire, fined 30 marcs and one palfrey, for obtaining a lease of it at fee farm at a rental of 60 shillings, the nearest approach to legality which the Barons or Judges of the Exchequer could place it—as it still appeared upon their Rolls as the King's ancient demesne. In spite of this, the lessees treated it as their own property. In 10 H. III. Adam de Alta Ripa claimed half the Manor of Tideswell under a grant from Thomas, the Esquire, who probably died the previous year and there is said to have been an inquisition post mortem (which unfortunately has not been preserved) of the 9 H. III., when it was found that he had a son named Monikino who predeceased him, S.P., that Agnes D'oille was the widow, and two daughters, named Alice and Johanna—the substance of these facts was found upon an inquest in the Hundred Court, 4-5 E.I.

The Close Roll of 14 Henry III. m. 17 contains a mandate from the King to the Sheriff of Derby, informing him that the King had granted to Philip de la Sauser (Salceto), a Northamptonshire Knight (who held a fee of the Peveril honour throughout John's reign), the land which Adam de Alta Ripa had held of the King's Bailiff in Tideswell and Weston to sustain himself in the King's service, during the King's pleasure, and that the Sheriff should cause the said Philip to have full seizen of the lands—tested at Westminster,

DESCENT OF THE MANOR OF TIDESWELL.



a a

Sir John Daniel, of Tideswell, 4 and 5 E. I., diss. of lands by Johanna, Wo. of Thomas Daniel. 11 E. I. gave his Manor and Forestership of Tideswell to Rich., his son, and Johnet de Kniveton in tail. Trin. 14 E. I., Inq. p.m.

Cecelia, 14 E. I. sued for her dower, v. Martins & Foljambe, 15 E. I., to have $\frac{1}{3}$ of the issues of the Serjeantry held of the King by her late husband. 17 E. I. Assize for diss. by her husband's son (? if his mother).

Richard Daniel, had=N.N. gt of land from his brother. 16 E. I. gave lease to John fil Wm. Martin. 30-33 E. I. regranted his lands to his bro.; left only a daughter, ux. John Herbert, living 1305.

Sir Richard Daniel, proved his age 29 E. I., gr. lease of Mill of Tideswell to Thos. Meverill. 33 E. I. had a confirmation of all his estates from the Crown. Escheat 15 E. II.

Johanna, d. of=Matilda, Mati. Kniveton, m. 11 E. I., had seizen of Tideswell. 13 E. I. sued by Eliz., Wo. of Matthew Kniveton, liv. 7 E. I.

Elizabeth, had=Matthew gr. of the Mill Kniveton. of Wormhill from Sir John Daniel at £10 rent, as dotation on marriage.

Elizabeth, 1st d. and coh., 15 E. II. † 6 E. III. =Thomas Meverill, 1st husb., of Throwley. =Rad Marchinton, 2nd husb.

Catherine, d. and coheiress=Thos. Curzon, 1st husb. =Reginald de Marchington, 2nd h. † s. p.

Johanna=John Turvil.

Thomas Meverill, 10 E. II., of Throwley.

John Meverill, 11 II. =Johanna, d. of William de Stafford, m. 23 E. III. IV., had lands after the death of Wm. Stafford. 2 H. V. found heir of Eliz. ux. Nic. Stafford, Kt. (for Throwley).

Robert Turvil.

Elizabeth, d. and h., ux. Sir Nicolas Stafford, † s. p. 2 H. V.

The Close Roll of the following year (15 H. III.) records that the King had heard that Brian de Insula had seized into the King's hand and held the land belonging to the Manor of Tideswell, which the King commanded should be given up to the right heirs of Thomas, the Esquire, inasmuch as Adam de Alta Ripa who held that land of the gift of the same Thomas had died without heirs of his body.

This entry shows that Thomas, the Esquire, was then dead upon the 16th Henry III. Magister Paulinus fil John de Paunton (Bampton) had a grant or confirmation of it from the Crown.

This is explained by an entry on the Hundred Rolls of 3 and 4 E. I. rot 2 (p. 38, Vol. II.), "It was found by the jury that King John gave the vill of Tideswell with its appurtenances to Thomas de Lamely for 60s. to be paid at the Castle of Peak, and it descended to Monikino, his son, and he had two daughters, one daughter died without heirs—and Magister Paulinus de Paunton, who married the other held the whole vill."

The said Paulinus sold the said vill to Richard Daniel in the time of King Henry III., and from Richard it came to his son, John Daniel, who then held it.

In 48 Henry III. Paulinus Bampton paid 11 marks for a fair and a market at Tideswell.

5 E. I. Cecile, widow of Paulinus, is mentioned in a Pipe Roll.

The date of the sale to Richard Daniel as recorded in the Inquisition is unknown, but John, son of Paulinus, confirmed the grant to John, son of Richard Daniel.

There is a record (Pat. Roll) taken from a copy in Mr. Bateman's collection, No. 80, dated 8th July, 1377, just before Richard II. coronation, which, if it can be relied upon, establishes the fact that the Daniels descend from Thomas, the Esquire, or possibly were collateral branches of the same family (the Albini's of Belvoir). Meverill clearly descended through a Daniel, and Thomas, the Esquire, married an Albini connection (see the Author's History of the House of Arundell), the finding of the jury in 3-4 E. I. only establishes a sale—it is as follows:—The King (Richard II.) to his Bailiffs, whereas the Lord John, late King of England, by charter, which we confirmed by letters patent the 8th day of July last, granted to Thomas Armiger that he and his heirs should have the Manor of Tideswell, we do acknowledge that Thomas Meverill is cousin and heir of the said Thomas, Esquire. By a Roll dated 12th July same

year, No. 81 (Bateman), is added a certificate that Tideswell was of the Ancient Demesne of the Crown.

This is followed by an entry on the patent rolls, in the 3rd part of the same year (1 R. II), confirming Tideswell, etc., to Nicolas de Stafford and Elizabeth, his wife, "one of the cousins and heirs of Richard Daniel," Robert Turvill being the other heir of the same, according to the charter of King Edward III., in the 33rd year of his reign, this charter gave Tideswell Manor, Wormhill Mill, four bovates of land in Galthrop, and four bovates in Billingly, to Richard Daniel.

Before giving the history of the Daniels, it would be best to give what is known of a family simply called de Tideswell, with whom they may or may not be identical or connected; but who were seated in Tideswell long before Richard Daniel, of Wormhill, purchased the Manor from Paulinus de Bampton.

In the amercement (Pipe Roll) of 9 John, Warner de Tideswell and Tom Foljambe were each fined a mark, and in 11 John, Richard Brito, Tom Foljambe, Warner de Tideswell and John de Aincourt were 4 knight jurors to view the neighbourhood of Pleslie, Robert Avenel's estate, so that they were persons of some consequence.

21 H. III., Wm. de Tideswell had the honour of Peak and Tideswell to farm by charter, he paid 5 marks, he was certainly a Daniel.

24-30 H. III. Baldwyn de Panton (? same name as Bampton), was Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Robert de Lamely held the woods of Welly and Lindebi.

26 H. III. Wm. de Tideswell and Pauline de Banton are mentioned, 35 H. III. Roger de Tideswell and 1 Ed. I. Henry Fil, Robert de Tideswell, earlier a Robert was parson of Tideswell and Henry, his brother, attested a charter of Thomas, the Esquire, to Warner de Tideswell.

Thomas fil Galf de Tideswell, manens in Ashbourne, granted to Hugh fil Roger Wulnet, of Tideswell, the land which he inherited from Galf, his father.

T., Thos. Foljambe, William, his brother, Robert Bozoun, Thomas de Longesdon, William Hally, Peter de Ralund, Thomas Cleric, of Gretton, Richard Daniel, Thomas le Archer, Hugo Martin, John and William, his brothers, Robert de Benetly, Henry Clement, Wm. de Stockton (Bateman, Ch.).

9 E. I., Assize roll, No. 36, m 1. If Galf de Tideswell, father of

Thomas, was seized of a messuage and 8 acres of land there, which Hugo fil Roger and Agnes, his wife, claimed.

Henry fil Robert de Tideswell, who is mentioned in a Pipe Roll of 1 E. I., was a benefactor, c., Henry III., of Trentham, he gave to Roger, Prior of Trentham, land near that which Jordan de Thoc gave them. T., Hy. de Esseburn, Lord of Bradburn, Stephen de Yrton, Hy. de Mapelton, Simon de Clifton, Robt. de Caldwell, Galf de Cocknage, William de Lilleshall, Rd. Dymmer Seal, a Bird, H. de Tideswell. There can be but very little doubt that several of these persons called de Tideswell, were identical with the family of Daniel, of the 21 H. III., and as it appears that Daniel, the father of William, held the mill of Wormhill, in the time of Henry II., it seems equally certain that some members of the family, named de Wormhill, were also identical with them.

It is quite clear that the Daniels held the mill of Wormhill, in the time of Henry II., as appears from a patent Roll of 11 R. II. In the pleas of the forest of the 31 H. II., Robert, the Miller of Wormhill, is mentioned, he must have been the ancestor, but probably not the progenitor of Daniel.

In 12 John Brian de Insula accounted for 1 marc for Tom Foljambe, 2s. for Lawrence de Wormhill, and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. for Tom fil Richard (the same items appear in 14 John). Brian de Insula was the farmer of the Honour of Peak from 11 John to 7 H. III., the King having leased it to him for £100 a year, at his pleasure, and William fil Daniel succeeded him in that farm. Alice, daughter of Brian de Insula, married William Brito, of Sidling, a connection of William Briwere, the Judge Farmer of the Peak, the lady had Scarclive in Derbyshire, for her jointure. Lawrence de Wormhill was succeeded by a son, William, and Henry is mentioned with him in the Forest Rolls of 36 H. III., together with Thomas fil Ralf de Wormhill.

The Forest Rolls give splendid evidence respecting these families, 36 Hy. III., in the first Roll of Foresters of Fee, are included Richard Daniel, William de Wormhill, and Thomas Foljambe, whose ancestors were enfeoffed by William Peveril Primus, Foresters of Fee, of Compana, thus taking back their pedigrees to nearly the time of the Conquest. Of course, this does not necessarily show that their ancestors, in the male line, had held it so long; they may have acquired their rights by marriage. At this date, Richard

Daniel held one bovat in Wormhill, val. 3s., William de Wormhill, half a bovat there, val. 1s. 6d., and Thomas Foljambe, one bovat, val. 3s.

There appears to be only one Charter of Thomas, the Esquire, remaining, which was in the Bateman collection at Middleton, with a splendid collection of Tideswell Charters; alas, this fine collection has been scattered, and the purchasers of them are unknown.

Thomas, the Esquire, gave to Warner de Tideswell (a Knight of the time of King John), 2 bovates there, which P'us (? Propositus) formerly held; and a messuage on the east of the church of Tideswell, which the same tenant also held, at the rent of 1 lb. of pepper.

T., Richard fil William de Pecco, Mathew de Hathersage, Richard de Herthill, Ralf Gernon, Robert, Parson of Tideswell, Henry his brother, William fil Richard de Pecco, William de Litton, Walter de Estweit, William fil Hodwin (then senescal of Tideswell) Hervey Purson (Bateman's Charter). This charter may be dated post 3 Richard I., since Ralf Gernon attested it; but it was probably of the time of King John, from the chief witness (Rich fil William de Peck, who was nephew of William Vernon of Haddon. Thom, the Esquire, did not pay his fine, but 12 John Brian de Insula accounted for a palfrey on account of it; he is called in the same Roll the farmer of Tideswell, as distinguished from the farm of the Peak, and he paid 6os. for his rent, in 1 Hy. III. he paid 22s. and 6d. on account. It should be noted that the Foljambe family throw great difficulties in the way of distinguishing them (if they are of another stock) by frequently using the surname of de Tideswell in their charters.

The exact pedigree of the Daniels is unknown, and whether they descend from Warner, the grantee of Thomas, the Esquire, or were only related to him collaterally, but their descent from the Forester of Fee of Wm. Peveril Primus is clear, as well as the fact that they held the Mill of Wormhill in Tideswell in the time of Henry II.; probably the grant of Thomas, the Esquire, was only a confirmation on his appointment to the farmership of Tideswell, Daniel himself obtained a grant of the forfeited possessions of Robert de Tibetot (whose connection with Derbyshire arises from his marriage with Eva, daughter of Pagan Chaworth, probably a nephew of Cecelia, wife of Henry Albini of Cainhoe), and he obtained the Manors of Goldthorpe, Billingly, Swinton and Wineley.

Pegg (History of Beauchief) gives a charter of Walter, brother of

Daniel, and of Osmond, his brother, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ bovates in Swinton, to William, son and heir of Daniel, which was attested by William Bassett, Ermand de Wenham, Adam de Herthill, Richard Peche, Robert, then Dean of Derby, Richard de Edroshover, William de Derley, Robert the Archer, John de Derley, William de F(l)agg Magister, Ralf de Tideswell, William de St. John. It is difficult to date this charter; it would appear to have been made before 8 H. III., when William paid his relief, but Ralf of Tideswell was of a later date. Daniel, the Botiler, gave to Beauchief Abbey 5 bovates in Goldthorpe, 4 bovates in Billingly, and 2 bovates in Swinton and Wineley. (Hunters, South Yorkshire.)

About the same date that he obtained the lands from his uncle Walter, Sigerich, wife of Hugh Mercator, of Rotherham, gave to William fil Daniel Pincerna, of Tideswell, and his heirs, her rights in one bovat of land in Swinton, which Jordan Dispensator formerly held. T., Galf de Lundon, Henry Senescal, of Roderham, John, servant of Rusmarais, Regl. Pvo de Roderham, Robt. Serj, of Swinton, Thomas de Wath, Hugo de Bram, Roger Coco. (Bateman Charters.)

Hugo Mercator, of Rotherham, granted to William fil Daniel Pincerna, of Tideswell, all his rights in same premises, attested before same witnesses. (Bateman Charters.)

In the hundred Rolls of 4 and 5 E. I., it is recorded "that King John gave to William Daniel the mills of Tadington and Prestclive, and the mill of Buxton for 5 marcs, payable annually, at the Castle of Peak, and John Daniel then held them."

"King John gave the mill of Wormhill to the said William Daniel for one measure, when demanded at the Exchequer, but it is unknown if it be paid. It is testified by the jury of High Peak, and by Sir Thomas Foljambe, the King's Bailiff, that John Daniel, who now holds the vill. of Tideswell, now holds it of the King in capite, and makes due service and does everything as aforesaid."

There is an obvious mistake in both these verdicts of William for his father, the Pipe Rolls clearly showing that Daniel obtained the grant in 6 John and died 8 H. III., when William, his son, paid his relief, 15 marcs, for the mill of Tideswell, which King John gave to his father, equally clear is it that William Daniel, died 28 H. III., for the Pipe Rolls show that Richard, his son, paid 5 marcs for his relief that year.

It is most probable that Daniel Pincerna was identical with Daniel Albini, who attested the Charter of William Albini, Earl of Arundell, tempe Stephen or Henry II., to Belvoir Priory, with Iwanno de Albini, William de Vallibus, and Abrosend (? Alard) de St. Hilary, whose family was allied by marriage. William II, Earl of Arundell, who died 1176, married Margaret, widow successively of James St. Hilary and of Roger de Clare. William Albini Brito, of Belvoir, who died 14 Hy. II., just previously returned, Yvan, or John, Albini (no doubt Iwanno of the last Charter) as holding one knight's fee of him of his own feoffment, and William de Vaus (Vallibus), as holding a fee of ancient feoffment (see the Author's History of the House of Arundell, 157 160 b., 170 b., 176 b., and 182).

At fo. 22 of the Belvoir Cartulary there is a Charter of William Albini II., of Belvoir, with the assent of Cecelia (Bigod), his mother, giving Redmile, to which Iwan de Albini and Alard de St. Hilary were witnesses. This Charter (still at Belvoir) is sealed with the two chevrons borne by the family. The Pincernas of Tideswell (Daniel) in their earliest Charters, also seal with the chevron. It is most probable that he was identical with Daniel Albini above mentioned; he had two brothers, Walter and Osborn, who shared in Swinton, which they obtained on the forfeiture of Walter Tibetot. Walter gave lands there to his nephew, William, son of Daniel. Daniel himself was a benefactor of Beauchief Abbey, and gave lands in Swinton, Goldthorpe, and Billingham to that foundation. The name of Daniel Pincerna is frequently found in the Close Rolls of King John, in connection with the duties of that office, which he obtained probably upon the forfeiture of the Earl of Arundell. He was dead in 8 Henry III., for William, his son, then gave 15 marcs for having the Mill of Wormhill, which King John gave to his father.

In 11 H. III. William had a fresh grant of the Mills of Wormhill, Taddington, and Prestclive, as his father held them in the time of Henry II. 19 Henry III. he had a grant of two mills in Weywater, one above the Bridge of Weye, in Kent (?) and the other at Fairford, in Gloucestershire. The king's men (tenants of ancient demesne), were ordered to do suit at the mills of William as they did in the time of Daniel, his father, showing that they were only farmers.

William Daniel farmed the Honour of Peak from 21 to 26 H. III. He died 28 Henry III., when apparently one Thomas was his son

and heir, although, probably because they were mere farmers for life, he did not succeed to his father's possessions.

Richard, son of William, purchased the Manor of Tideswell from Magister Paulinus fil John de Paunton, who had married the daughter of Thomas, the Esquire, clearly after the 48 Hy. III., since Paulinus had a grant of a fair at Tideswell that year for himself.

It is probable, from a statement in a Patent Roll, that William Daniel, like Paulinus de Paunton, also married a coheir of Thomas, the Esquire. When Richard died does not appear; he left two sons, John and Richard. Richard left only a female heir, and granted his estates to his nephew, Richard, son of John, who died two years previously.

John, son of Paulinus de Paunton, called de Bampton, granted the Manor of Tideswell, which his father had granted to Richard fil William, to John, his son, which would have been unnecessary had he been the heir.

In 4 E. I. Thomas Foljambe, then Bailiff of Peak, certified that John Daniel held it of the King in capite, but as this would be known in the Exchequer to be erroneous, no Inquisition 'post mortem' followed.

Richard, son of John, obtained the King's sanction to all these arrangements in 33 E. I., when Tideswell, Wormhill, and the Yorkshire Manors were again granted to him. The last Richard Daniel died 13 E. II., leaving coheirs. Elizabeth, the eldest, had several husbands; she had issue by Thomas Meverill, of Throwley, two sons, Thomas and John. The eldest son left only a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Sir Nicolas Stafford, when it went to that family, although Sir Nicolas left no issue. In 1432 it appears to have gone back to the Meverills. John, son of John, 2nd son of Elizabeth, succeeding. In 4 and 5 E. I. Johanna, widow of Thomas Daniel, disseized John Daniel, of Tideswell of land there.

The following Charters, which were in the Bateman collection, constitute a great puzzle. What was the object of them? And who was Thomas fil William de Tideswell? What became of him? These deeds are novel in design, and seem to be an attempt to supersede the use of a fine, by which their objects could have been accomplished, a perfectly superfluous attempt which fails in its object, for these deeds are worthless without a judgment upon them, and they look much like forgeries, but for what purpose?

Thomas fil William de Tideswell, released the whole right which he or his heirs could have in half the Mill of Wormhill, and in half the tenements which belonged to the same Mill, etc., and with half the Mill of Bucstalis, so that neither he nor his heirs should have any hereditary rights, nor seek compensation for any gift, or any feoffment, or right which he had through William, his father, and for that demise and release the said Richard, his brother gave half the Mill of Ponte, without appurtenancies, by the form contained in the Charter which he had of him, with the land which the said Richard held in Tideswell; and Henry de Chaddesdon, and with the homage and service of Richard fil Ralf, and the homage, etc., of Roger Fot, and he binds himself to a penalty of £100, £60 to the King and £40 to Richard, if he should be vexed in possession of the same.

T., Richard de Ragged, Edwyde de Tideswell, Eustace de Stafford, Ralf Clement, Thomas Foljambe, Roger and John, his brothers. (Bateman Charter, No. 1237.)

The same Thomas fil William de Tideswell released to Richard Daniel, his brother, his claims in all the land which he held of the said Richard, in the mill of Tideswell, and in the mill of Ponte, which he held of the same Richard. To hold all the lands which he had of William, his father, or of Richard, his brother, and for greater security he delivered to the said Richard, all the feoffments and instruments which he had of the said Richard, of the said land and mill, for which Richard gave 120 marcs of silver. (Bateman Charter, No. 122).

The statement in the two deeds, with regard to the Mill of Ponte, seems irreconcilable with the fact that Richard had it by the Charter of Thomas, and in the second, Thomas held it of Richard. As the families of Foljambe and Daniel bore the same arms, it may be that this Thomas de Tideswell was Thomas Foljambe, the first of Tideswell, this seems probable from the fact that Daniel Pincerna had a grant of the forfeited possessions of Robert de Tibetot and that Thomas Foljambe ultimately enjoyed the same property as direct heir.

These apparently wild conjectures arise from the fact that in spite of the great number of these Charters, clear pedigrees cannot be made out in the absence of inquisitions post mortem.

The following Charters all throw a valuable light upon many Derbyshire pedigrees; there does not, however, appear to be any Charters of William fil Daniel Pincerna amongst them.

S.d., (33 H. 3) Richard fil William Daniel, of Tideswell, granted to Robert fil Rich de Godrichhill and Susannah, his wife, one bovat in Parva Hucklow, which Henry fil Roger de Legham formerly held of the gift of Sir John de Lexington, 2s. rent.

T., William de Horsenden, then (33 H. III.) Bailiff of Peak; Rich de Ragged, John Foljambe, Henry de Tadington, Sampson de Stretley, William Hally, Robert le Archer, Thomas, his son, Thomas fil John Foljambe. (Bateman Charters.)

S.d., Jordan Poyndant and Eustacia, his wife, to Sir Richard Daniel, release from 5½ m., which he gave per annum for 4 bovates of land in Billingly, two of which Hugo le Francis held and two held by Hugo fil Hubered.

T, Wm. de Latum, then sheriff of Yorks, Sir William de Bosgate, Sir Thos. de Belewe, Ralf de Horberge, Sir Roger de Munteny, Robert de Eccleshall, Robert de Wybersly, Peter de Cutberesfield, Robt. de Scales, Thomas Malet, John de Bylyngly, Reivero de Mortbyng, Robert Halgeron, with two seals. (Bateman Charters.)

S.d., Richard Daniel grant to Richard fil Rankelli de Pva Hocklow, who granted same property to Thos. fil John Foljambe.

T., Richard de Herthill, Hugo de Strelly, Thomas le Archer, Sir Alan Vicar. of Tydde (c 1254), Sir Walter Vicar, William Foljambe, Thomas, of Wormhill, Hugo Martin. (Post 28 H. III.) (Belvoir Charter).

S.d., the same to the same (c. 40 H. III.) of the whole vill. of Parva Hucklow, as he had it by grant of Hy. de Lexington Epis Linc.

T., William de Mocyng (Mr. Jeayes has ? Mortheyne), Gervase de Bernak, Rich de Herthill, Robert, his brother, Knights. Hy. de Taddington, Peter de Hurst, Robert de Albeny, Wm. Hally, Thos. le Archer, Richard le Ragged, Hy. de Welford, John Foljambe, Robert Foljambe, William de Stockton. (Foljambe Charter.)

S.d., Richard Daniel, of Tideswell, to Magister, Thomas de Wymondham Cleric, grant of lands of Thomas, his brother, in Tideswell. Saving the mill of Ponte. (Bateman Charter.)

S.d., the same to the same for his services, all the lands and tenements which he formerly held of Thomas Daniel, his brother, in Tideswell, which he held in capite in the town of Tydde.

T., Rich de Vernon, Wm. de Horsendon (c. 36 H. III.), Ralf de Cubbele, William fil Alan, Vicar of Tydde, Hy. de Litton, Jo. Foljambe,

Ralf . . . Simon de Aldell, Wm. de Gratton, John de Holwell (Belvoir Charter.)

S.d., the same to Henry Andrew, of Tideswell.

34 Ed. I., Susanna, Wo. Robert Legham, of Pva. Hocklow to Amicia fil Eustace de Legham, her brother, half a bovate, in Pva. Hocklow, which she had of the grant of Rich. fil Wm. Daniel. T., Thos. Foljambe, Knight, Wm. fil Wm. Bate, of Pva. H., Wm. fil Wm., Rankelli, of the same Robt. Rankelli, Hugo Clic.

The following are Charters of John Daniel, son of Richard.

S.d., to Hugo fil Thomas de Newby land in Weston and Tideswell, which he had of the grant of Pauline de Bampton, and which Henry fil Reginal, William fil Richard de Weston de Brockwells Cliff, and Stephen Godeselage held in Litton Dale and Sethes.

T., Wm. de Morteyn, Gervase de Bernak, and Robt. de Herthill, Kts, Alan and Henry de Luceby, Hy. de Tadington, Rich le Ragged, Thos. le Archer, Wm. Hally, Wm. Foljambe, Thos., his brother, Osbert de Aure, Thomas fil Robt. Foljambe, Henry Clement, Wm. de Stockton. (Bateman Collection.)

Seal, two lions rampant; crest, a sceptre; legend, John fil Richard.

4 and 5 E. I. m., 2d., Johanna, widow of Thomas Daniel, disseized John Daniel of tenement in Tideswell.

S.d., John fil and heir, Pauline de Baunton, release to John fil Richard Daniel, the rights which came to him by inheritance from his mother Johanna, in Tideswell and Wheston.

T., Galf de Newband Clic, Robt. de Wedneslay, Hy. de Mapleton, Hy. fil Mathew de Kniveton, Robert de Reyndon, John de Pecco, dwelling in London, William, his brother, Thomas Foljambe, Rich de Roderham Clic, Roger de Asseburn. (Bateman Charter.)

S.d., the same to the same, release of her rights in the Manor of Tideswell, for a sum of money. T., Thomas Foljambe, of Tydeswell, John Hally, Thos. Ragged, Wm. Foljambe, Thos. de Gaupton.

S.d., John fil Richard Daniel, of Tideswell, release to Richard, his brother, of rent of land which Roger fil Stephen Godeselaw held in Tideswell, and which the said Richard bought of the said Roger.

T., Wm. Foljambe, Thos, his brother, Thos. de Langedon, Hy. de Wilesford, Thos. fil Roger Foljambe, Henry and William, his brothers, John Martin, William, his brother, Hugo fil Roger de Tideswell, Richard Redman, Thomas Andrews. (Bateman Charter).

S.d., the same to John fil Hugo Martin, his lands in Tideswell.

T., Thomas Foljambe and Adam de Herthill, Knights, Wm. Foljambe, Thomas, son of Roger Foljambe, Hy. and Wm., his brothers. (Dr. Johnstone's notes).

The same to same, with same witnesses, with Hy. fil Thos. Foljambe. (Dr. Johnstone's notes).

50 H. III. Richard Daniel sued Ralf le Wine (Pincerna), of Bakewell, Robt. de Derby, of Pek, and Thos. le Archer. (R.C.R.).

53 H. III. Assize, Agnes, Widow, Robt. Tideswell claimed dower *v.* Robert fil, Robert de Tideswell lands in Bently *v.* Thomas de Tideswell land in Ashbourne *v.* Richard de Pecco in Kniveton *v.* Matthew de Kniveton and William fil Alan in Moneyash *v.* Richard fil Hervy Ashbourne *v.* Wm. de Bredlow.

Same date, John fil William de Synkenhall *v.* Robert fil Philip Okover and Eggeda, his mother, a certain volacum (?) in Becco de Tideswell, Wm. Gilbert de Mileburn and Wm. Pyward de Tykenhall.

Same date, Assize of Johanna, mother of John de Bampton was seized of 6 bovats in Tideswell, which Richard Daniel held.

54 H. III., William Essoignator, of Ralf de Monjoie and Elizabeth, his wife *v.* John fil Quenilde land in Tideswell, Edward fil Reginald de Pecco.

S.d., Andrew Jordanus and Constance, his wife, grant to Richard Daniel, of Tideswell, seal a cross ragulee and a band.

3 E. I., June 18, The Sheriff of Lincolnshire, to send 10 tons of the King's wine, then at Boston, to be delivered by Gregory Rokelly, to the King himself, at Tideswell. (Close Roll). The King was there the 22nd August, of that year, and again 25 Sept., 18th E. I. Sept. 10., Roger le Strange, bailiff of Peak, to forward all the King's venison, then at the King's larder, in Tideswell, to be sent to Westminster. (id.)

Wm. Abbot, of Lilleshall, grant to Rich. fil John Daniel and Johanna, his wife, of 6d., annual rent for a messuage and bovate in Magna Hocklowe. (Add. 8443.)

4 and 5, E. I., Johanna, Widow of Thomas Tideswell, disseized, John Daniel, of land in Tideswell. (Proof that the Daniels were called de Tideswell).

S.d., Rich. fil John Daniel, of Tideswell, Knight, grant to John fil Hugo Martin, of Tideswell.

T., Wm. Martin, Alex de Lutteby, Hugo de Prestclive. (Bateman Charter).

St. Oswald, 7 E. I., the same to Wm. Syward, and Richard, his son.

T., John fil Hugo Martin, John fil Ralf Martin, Hugo, his son, Thos. Andrews, William Redman, John Quenilde, Wm. Andrews Clic. (Bateman Charter).

The following are from the same collection.

St. John Bapt., 7 E. I., the same to Thomas Foljambe, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ land in Tideswell. (Same witnesses).

Pur. B.V.M., 7 E. I., the same to Wm. le Horseknave, one acre in Tideswell.

T., John Martin, Ralf Martin, Thos. and Hy. Andrews, Wm. and Robert Redman, Wm. Andrews Clic.

28th March, 11 E. I. License for John Daniel to give his land in Tideswell, with the mill of Wormhill, and the balywic of the forester-ship of the Peak, which he holds in chief to Richard, his son and heir, and Joan de Kniveton, whom he was about to marry. 8th May, 33 E. I., same confirmed.

11 E. I., John Daniel appointed Henry de Wormhill, his valet, to deliver to Richard, his son and heir, and Johnnet de Kniveton, his wife, seizen of the Manor of Tideswell.

11 and 12 E. I., Mich. Fine, Rich. fil John Daniel, to John Daniel, the Manor of Tideswell, Patent Roll.

Trm. 13 E. I., Isabella, Widow of Mathew Kniveton, sued Rich. fil John Daniel, and Johanna, his wife, for 40 acres land in Spondon.

14 E. I., Richard Daniel, and Johanna de Kniveton, his wife, had the Manor of Tideswell at 60s. rent per annum.

S.d., John Daniel, of Tideswell, granted land to John Quenilde. T., William and Henry Andrews and Hugo Cleric.

14 E. I., Inq. p.m. John Daniel held Tideswell Manor, 30 acres land in Wormhill, by custody of the Forest of High Peak. Cecil, widow of John Daniel, sued Wm. Hamilton for her dower in a mill in Tideswell and Wormhill, who called to warranty Richard fil John Daniel and Johanna, his wife, and *v.* Wm. Martin, 18 acres in Tideswell, and *v.* John Martin, 28 acres in Tideswell, and *v.* Richard Daniel, 30 acres in Tideswell, and *v.* Cecil, widow of Thos. Foljambe, 30s. rent, and *v.* Thos. fil Roger Foljambe and William, his brother, one-third of a mill in Bocston, Fairfield, and Standon, and *v.* Thos. fil Thos. Foljambe and Rich. Foljambe, for a mill and 18 acres in Talington, Prestclive, Wormhill, and Tydeswell. (R.C.R., 14 E. I., m. 70d.)

11 E. I. John Daniel to Henry de Thornhill. Seal, two lions rampant, crest a sceptre. John Daniel used the same seal to a Charter he granted to Hugh fil Thomas de Newby.

10th March, 11 E. I. (1283). Robert Bozon to have the custody of the Peak under Thomas de Norman, as Thomas Foljambe, lately deceased, held it. 30th September, grant to Nicolas de Babingley, Forester of the lands which Robert Burgyon, Bailiff of the Peak, committed to him. 3/- rent.

Post 4 ante 14 E. I. John Daniel granted to William fil Andrew, of Tideswell, for money, a toft and one acre of land in Tideswell, which John fil Dode formerly held, and which lies between the toft of Hugo le Minor and lands of Geoffry Tumart, and one acre in the field of Tideswell and half an acre at the Hethe Flat and half an acre at the Medume Dale side, at 2s. rent.

T., Sir Alan, Vicar, and Henry, his brother, *Wm. Foljambe and Alan, his brother*, Thomas the Archer, Wm. de Stockton, Hugo Martin, Henry Alemart, John Martin, Richard Redeman, William Martin. (The Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher's Charters).

28th April, 14 E. I. Inspeximus of Charter of Matilde, widow of of Wm. de Wychford, to Thomas le Ragged, of the Balewic or Serjeantry which she holds of her father's inheritance at Wyxford.

T., Sir Jo. Daniel, Robert Bozon, Bailiff of Peak, Peter Roland, John de Loughton, Robert Balge, James de Maynwarding, Roger Woodrove.

15 E. I. William Daniel, of Tibshelf, released lands there to John Wright, and 16 E. III. Peter fil Wm. Daniel, of Tibshelf, granted lands there to Rich. and Jo. Bozon.

T., Roger Demcourt, Roger Somerville, John, Wm., and Robert de Steynesby. (Foljambe Charters.)

20th June, 15 E. I. Cecily, widow of John Daniel, to have for her dower the issues of a third of the Serjeantry in Tideswell, which John held in capite of the King, according to the custom of the Peak.

17 E. I. Assize, If, etc., John de Annesley, Roger de Bassilow, Cecil, widow of John Daniel, Henry fil Roger Foljambe, Rich. le Archer, disseized Rich. fil John Daniel and Joan, his wife, of a tenement in Tideswell, and if Thomas Foljambe and others disseized Robert le Wine of land in Litton.

21 Ed. I. Pardon to John de Paris, of Tideswell, for the death of Wm. Drake, of Litton.

23 E. I. Roger Wulnet, of Tideswell, made grant to Thomas Redman.

26 E. I. Richard Daniel, grant to John Siward.

1301. Release from Richard fil and heir John Daniel to —

30 E. I. and 15 E. II. Rich. le Archer attested Tideswell Charters.

Trm., 31 E. I. Richard Daniel and Johanna his wife granted to Hugo fil Roger de Tideswell a messuage and 25 acres land there. John fil Robert de Tideswell recorded his claim.

33 E. I. Grant to Walter de Waldeschelf, the King's Yeoman, of the Baillywick of the Forest of the Peak, which Nicolas de Conyers recently held.

34 E. I., 13th Jan. Grant from Rich. fil Jo. Daniel, of Tideswell, to Wm. fil Thomas Andrews of 3 roods in le crofts, formerly Jo. Lovet's, half an acre near le Thorn meadow, formerly Rd. fil Rd. Daniel's, in exchange for three roods sup. le Worthing's.

T., Thomas Foljambe, Knight, Jo. fil Wm. Martin, Wm. Redmon, Jo. Quenhilde. (Add. 7788.)

2 E. II. Thomas fil Robert Marriot, of Tideswell, grant to Rich. Daniel.

5 E. II. Hugo fil Roger de Tideswell, to same, and same Rich. Daniel granted to Richard de Hayndonian.

7 E. II. John Grenilde (Quenilde), of Tideswell, made a grant to Richard Daniel; 8 E. II., John le Smith did the same, and 9 E. II., Alice, ux Wm. Redmond, also made a grant to him.

11 E. II. Writ of Enquiry respecting the Wastes of Peak Forest, belonging to the estate of the Queen Consort, addressed to Walter de Waldshelf.

20 E. II. Inq. p.m., Hugh Strutt. Jury, Richard Redmon, of Tideswell, Alexander de Lucyby, of the same, Wm. Redmon, Thomas and Henry Andrews, Thomas Quenilde, Thomas Rankelli, Nicolas, Clerk of Bradwell.

16 E. I., Richard fil Richard de Tideswell, granted lease of the lands which he held of John, his brother, to John fil Hugo Martin, of Tideswell.

T., John Fleming, bailiff of Peak, Henry Foljambe, bailiff of Tideswell, Thos., son of Thos. Foljambe. (Dr. Johnstone's notes.)

30 Ed. I., Richard fil Richard Daniel, granted to Richard fil John Daniel, a messuage and 28 acres of land in Tideswell, which he had of the gift of John Daniel, his brother.

T., Thos. Foljambe, Knight, Philip de Stredle, Wm. Martin, Rich fil Wm. Foljambe, Rich le Archer, Robt. de Brailsford. (Bateman Charter, No. 27.)

33 E. I., John Herbert, of Rodington, and Agnes, his wife, released to Richard fil John Daniel, of Tideswell, their rights in lands in Tideswell, which Richard Daniel, father of the said Agnes, held from John Daniel, Knight, his brother.

T., Thos. Foljambe, Knight, Richard fil William Foljambe, Wm. Meran, Hugo fil Roger, William Cleric. (Bateman Charter.)

S.d., Rich. fil Rich. Daniel, of Tideswell, to Rich. fil John Daniel, of Tideswell, and Jenet, wife of the said Richard, a messuage and 4 acres land there, which Stephen Godselegt formerly held.

T., Thomas Foljambe, John, Wm., and Ralf Martin, and Henry Cleric, of Hocklow. (Bateman Charter.)

11 E. II., Inq. p.m., Richard Daniel, Elizabeth, ux Thomas Meveril, aged 24, Catherine ux Jo Curzon, aged 23, and Johanna, their sister, aged 14, his daughter and coheirs. He held a mess. and 30 acres of land in Wormhill, of the King, by serjeantry, and he and Johanna, his wife, held land in Tideswell, of the Castle, and 60s. rents.

11 E. II., the same to William fil John Martin. (Belvoir Charter).

Same date, the same from the same John fil Jo Martin and William fil John Martin, of rents in Tideswell, of Hugo fil Thomas, Ralf fil Nic de Wardlow, Thomas fil Henry Andrew, Rich Corteve (?) Ralf Tailor.

Same date, Richard fil Peter le Mercer, of Tideswell, granted lands there to Richard Daniel.

13 E. II., Charter of Richard fil John Daniel, of Tideswell, with seal a bend between 6 wine stoups, 2 and 4, impaling a bend between 6 escallops, 3 and 3. (Belvoir Charter.)

Escheat, 15 E. II., No. 40, Richard Daniel died holding a messuage and 30 acres of land in Tideswell, a messuage and 30 acres of land in demesne, and one mill in Wormhill, 11 acres and 2 bovates of land in Spondon. Elizabeth ux Thomas Meverel, Catherine ux Thomas de Curzon, and Johanna, his daughters and heirs.

15 E. II., Matilde, Widow of Richard Daniel, and Catherine ux Thomas Courson, one of the daughters and heirs of Richard, release to of Dower, etc., in Wormhill, Tideswell and Weston, and the mill of Tideswell,

T., William de Baggeleigh, Robert Wilde, of Waldshelf, John de Hide, Richard Foljambe, then bailiff of Pec, John de Lutrington, Rich le Archer, John Martin, Rad de Weston, William Andrew Cleric. (Bateman Charter.)

Same date, John de Lutrington and Johanna, his wife, had lease of lands in Tideswell from Matilde, Widow of Richard Daniel.

15 E. II., Matilde, Widow of Richard Daniel, tenant in chief, to have possession of 30 acres of land in Wormhill, and 30 acres of land in Tideswell, for dower, with assent of Thos. Meveril, and Elizabeth, his wife, and of Catherine and Joan, her sisters.

23rd July, 15 E. II., not to meddle further, with 46s. 5d. rent, and 76 acres of land, which Richard Daniel enfeoffed, John le Merchant, who enfeoffed Rich and Matilde.

31st Aug., 17 E. II., partition made between the three daughters of Rich Daniel.

Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, No. 21. 11 E. III., Inq. p.m., Elizabeth ux Thomas Meverill, she held one-third of Manor of Tideswell, as her demesne, as of fee of Phillippe, Queen of England, of her Castle, and Honour of High Peak, val. 100s. ; one-third of a water-mill in Wormhill, of the Queen, by 8d. rent, val. 40s. ; one third of a messuage and 10 acres land in Wormhill, by the service of Forestry (one man with bow and arrows), in the forest of High Peak, val. 6s. 8d., Thomas, her son, is next heir, at 22 she died. 6 E. III., Jas. Cotterel had wardship of her heir, by grant of the Queen.

16 E. III., Peter fil William Daniel, of—

18 E. III., William fil Peter, fil Agnes, of Dronfield, grant to Roger Daniel, of Colleye, 2 acres land in Dronfield.

T., Richard del Woodhouse, Thos. Coens, of Colleye, Wm. Louecock. (Foljambe Charter).

The following records show the position of some of the persons to whom the tombs have been attributed—which dispose of the assumption completely.

7 R. II., Patent Roll, part 1, M. 8. Because the Lord Edward, the King (his grandfather), granted to John Foljambe, of Tideswell, John fil Henry de Monyash, Henry de Tideswell, and John Alexander, license to give in pure alms 12 messuages and 200 acres of land in Tideswell. He then granted to Nicolas Stafford, Chevalier, James Foljambe, John Archer of Highlow, Robert Jewesson, of Tonstead,

Henry Alexander, Cap, Robert Sharp, Cap, Richard le Machon, of Tideswell, Henry atte Townsend, of Litton, and the said John fil Henry, license to grant 12 messuages and 200 acres of land in Tideswell, Litton, and Wormhill, not held in chief, of the yearly value of 12 marcs; for two chaplains to celebrate divine service, daily, at the Altar of St. Mary, in the Chapel of St. John, which was granted by the late King, but which never took effect.

16 R. II., Sept. 19th, license to Roger Foljambe, to grant to Sir Nicolas Stafford, James Foljambe, and others, 2 messuages and 26 acres of land in Tideswell, for the chantry to support two chaplains to pray for them and for the brethen of the guild of St. Mary, in the church of St. John Baptist, in Tideswell. (Woolly, III. 15).

Same date, grant from Nicolas de Stafford, James Foljambe, Robt. Jewesson, of Tunsted, Henry Alexander, Robert Sharp, Chaplains, Roger Macheon, of Tideswell, Henry del Towsend, of Litton, to John Smyth and John Redymon, Chaplains, of lands in Wormhill, Tideswell, and Litton, to found a chantry at the Altar of the Blessed Mary, in the church of St. John Baptist, of Tideswell, for prayers for the souls of King Edward, of King Richard, of Ann, Queen of England, of John, Duke of Lancaster, of William de Astone (his chancellor), of John Foljambe, of John, son of Henry de Moneyash, Henry de Tideswell, John Alexander, Elizabeth, the wife of the said Nicolas de Stafford, Roger Foljambe, Thomas, son of Sir Godfrey Foljambe, Knight, John de Stafford, sen., Thurston de la Bower, Margaret, his wife, and Margaret, his mother. (Woolly, XI. 26).

These Charters show that instead of the Foljambes and de Bower, neither of whom were knighted, having been the builders, they had only aided others in the grant of lands (in soul arms, as Mr. Jeayes calls it), or in aid of superstitious uses as they would now be styled—of course, all their gifts were more piously disposed of at the Reformation, in aid of the vices of the Reformers, that is for their own purposes: no doubt, one of the Protestant decendants of the family wished to commemorate his ancestor's piety, without unduly disclosing his ignorance and superstition, and so converted his soul arms into "something good for the church," which his more remote family have supposed, meant its building or rebuilding. Looking at the date of their grants, it is obvious that these pious grantors could neither be founders of the church, nor be recipients of the tombs. It may be noted that except Elizabeth, wife of Sir Nicolas Stafford, no Meverill

was a member of the guilds, or a partner in their pious observances.

Tideswell, after the Reformation, for a time had good Catholics to protect her beautiful Church and to watch over the interests of her children. Chief amongst them was the great Bishop Purseglove, Prior (successively) of Guiesborough and Rotherham, and Suffragan of York. When deprived of his offices by Queen Elizabeth, because he would not take the Oath of Supremacy, he retired to Tideswell, his birthplace, and here, amongst his noble acts of charity, he built and endowed the Grammar School, and it was doubtless owing to the love and reverence borne to his memory by his scholars of Tideswell (a love affectionately handed down from boy to boy) that his memory is still cherished. His monumental brass, indeed (after the custom of Tideswell), had been appropriated and probably removed by the Protestant Vicar of 1680; but not actually destroyed, for the brass itself was utilised by his admirers for a memorial for this eminent divine until recently, when, more fitly, it has been restored to its original purpose by the late Vicar, the Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher.

Mr. Fletcher records, and indeed it is worthy of notice, that at the extremity of the gable end of the south transept, is the figure of the crucified Saviour; the arms have been broken off, "It is," he writes, "of fourteenth century work."

It is interesting to see how, one by one, the old Catholic teaching is being restored by pious hands, until the full symbolical teaching conveyed by these stones, is resuscitated. Much of beauty and of the lessons of truth has doubtless perished, but to a Catholic who visits this church it may be read clearly. The ignorance and real superstition which followed the so-called Reformation, and which plunged the Peak, formerly enlightened by these beautiful edifices, into truly Cimmerian darkness, is fast disappearing, and when the falsity of the wretched and numerous "Protestant" religions shall be clearly seen, the people will follow their clergy and turn once more to their ancient faith.

It has been a terribly long and depressing period. The religion of the Bible has been branded as Romanism, the crucifix itself, the greatest emblem of the Catholic faith, has been decreed, in our own day, to be an object of superstition, and this by Lord Penzance, sitting *ex cathedra*, and speaking as the mouthpiece of the good Queen Victoria, the Head of the Church (who herself was a true

Catholic), whilst the Lion and the Dog, the emblems of Henry the Eighth, as Head of the Church and of the devil-worship of the Reformers, have been hoisted in its place, and at this day (beautifully gilt and painted, like a false harlot) may be seen in many churches—notably in that of Hope (the mother church of Tideswell), in all their deformity. Surely these Protestant rags are gradually disappearing: even the churchwardens are ashamed of them and hide them away, whenever they dare. The ignorant people of Derbyshire, especially since every form of Puritanism has been rampant, have been taught to spit upon the cross. There is a beautiful little church in Derbyshire which is built in the cruciform; they have partially obliterated its character by blocking up the north transept with a wretched wooden gallery and an organ loft; and yet that church has been restored (with these disfigurements) by Mr. Scott, a truly Catholic architect.

Soon, like Tideswell Church, all the Anglican churches will be restored to their original beauty, and then, assuredly, will be revived the true teaching which they symbolize, if this, indeed, is not done already. John Henry Newman foresaw this coming change, and by his example greatly helped to hasten it. When Rector of a Protestant church he published Tract 90, the immediate effect of which was, to his intense pain, to drive him from the church. People do not realise the fact that the principles of Tract 90 are now clearly read in stone, and proclaim to every one the true principles of religion. If all this is wrong, these churches should be destroyed, and with them the Bible, upon which they are founded, and in which every doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church is clearly disclosed. Dr. Newman saw this, and proclaimed it. He did not even openly reject, or condemn, as he might have done, the shocking compromise of truth contained in the 39 Articles; he did not even denounce, as he might have done, the hypocrisy of the makers; he had entered the church under them, and, in his gentle way, he preferred to treat them rather as diplomatists, who only coloured their work with their own tinctures, and he insisted that in spite of the Reformers' efforts to minimise and obscure Catholic truth, whatever of Catholic or Romish doctrine was not included in set terms was, in fact, constructively included, because they professed to respect the Bible, which teaches every Romish doctrine. Why did they not burn the Bible at the Reformation, and set up a new doctrine altogether? They have found out their mistake after 300 years and are endeavouring to

pulverize it by their higher criticism, but it is too late, the truth is being gradually known, in spite of the Puritans, whom Cromwell thrust into the church (for the sake of its loaves and fishes). They are well represented at the present day, even Agnostical Bishops and Archbishops are not yet extinct, because Agnostics, in the Government, select these men for the high places, and they endeavour to throw down the walls of their churches and bring their kind into its folds. Dr. Newman had the great advantage of having had a belief in the Bible, firmly implanted in his mind, by an excellent mother, and he never forgot it, and upon its basis he wrote his famous Tract 90. In his day, not one churchman in a hundred, lay or cleric, believed in Catholic truths, now the reverse is the proportion, and the restoration of the churches has secured their perpetuation—it will take stronger men than Archbishop Davison, or Bishops Gore and Percival, to bring Dr. Clifford and Mr. Campbell into line. Dr. Tait and Bishop Blomfield drove out Dr. Newman and his fellows, with the result that they founded churches which inculcate the old doctrines now held by the Clergy, of the Church of England, for protest (as some of them may), their wretched differences are fast disappearing, and they are growing one with the Church of Rome. This is the great lesson to be learned from Tideswell Church.

PEDIGREE OF MEVERILL.

Thomas de Gayton, = Margaret, dau. of Richard
 Stephen-Rich. I. and Margaret de Dreynston
 (No. 1). (Nos. 1 and 29).

Hugo fil Thomas, had grant
 from Stephen de Bellocampo
 (1 and 23).

Peter.

Richard, dead
 12 Hy. III.
 (1 and 15).

Richard de Gayton, a
 Priest, gave land in
 Gayton and Dreyns-
 ton to Stephen, his
 bro., 25 H. III. sued
 by Alda Vernon, ux.
 Sir Wm. Stafford (3,
 5, 10 and 31).

Stephen, held
 land of the
 Earl of Ches-
 ter, 5 Jo. gave
 land to Crox-
 ton.

Agnes, 12 H.
 III., land in
 Mathfield, bu.
 in Croxton
 Abbey.

William,
 5 Jo., atty.
 for Griffin,
 of Colton.

Roger of
 Sardon,
 34 Hy.
 III. (3).

Nicolas Meverill, 27 H.
 III. held $\frac{1}{4}$ fee in Leake
 of Gayton (18, 24, 28,
 and 30).
 39 H. III. attd. the
 Earl of Derby's Ch.
 † 47 Hy. III. (33-4-5).

N.N.

Lucy de
 Gay
 (Amicia).

= Matilde, 13 E
 I. released her
 dower to Hy.
 Kniveton,
 re-m. John
 Littlebury (96).

Magister
 Peter,
 47 H. III.
 had cust.
 of his
 brother's
 children
 (24, 26).

John,
 Rector
 of
 Tac-
 sale
 (30).

Nicolas, a Monk
 of Grace Dieu,
 3 E. I. apptd.
 Ralf Monjoie
 his attorney.
 (42-3-71.)

- (1) Agnes, ux Thomas Meverill, they
 both d. s. p. ante 47 H. III. (30).
- (2) Aleanora, ux. Rog. de Mercynton,
 had issue Nicolas.
- (3) Amicia, ux Rd. Draycott.
- (4) Isolda, ux Rad Monjoie, had
 issue Serlo (68).
- (5) Johanna, ux John Grendon, had
 issue Ralf.
- (6) Isabella, ux Hy. Kniveton, had
 issue William (51, 68).
- (7) Agneta, ux R. de Tillington, had
 issue Agnes, ux Ralf de Rochford.

- (8) Margaret.
- (9) Alice.
- (10) Joan.
- (11) Elizabeth.
- (12) Nicola.
- (13) Alianora.

Margery,
 granted
 land to
 Lucy,
 her
 mother.

CHAPTER VI.

THE MEVERILLS OF TIDESWELL.

Very little can be learnt from Derbyshire records relating to this family, for although they had an interest in Leke in Notts, and occasionally notices of them are to be found in the Pipe Rolls, and in the Testa de Neville, which contain accounts of both Notts and Derbyshire Manors, they had no direct interest in this County, except through the Daniels and the Knivetons.

In the 15 Edward II., Thomas Meverill obtained one-third of Tideswell Manor by marriage with the eldest coheir of the Daniels.

This estate they held, except for short periods when the Crown interposed some of the Stafford family, for nearly 300 years. Their previous connection with the Pincernas (the Daniels) can, at present, only be hinted at, but it is possible that Azilinus, their probable Domesday ancestor, was identical with Ascelin, the ancestor of the Percivals.

It is to Staffordshire history therefore that we must resort for the history of this family, and unfortunately, Staffordshire has no modern historian of its own, and we must patiently wait until one is produced, and hope (without much hope) that the great Victorian County history may be able to produce one; in the meantime it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge how deeply Derbyshire is indebted to the William Salt Society, and especially to the labours of General Wrottesly, whose transcripts of the Plea Rolls for that County are of enormous value to the historian, but they contain only a multitude of facts, with only chronological arrangement, and they are unintelligible by themselves since they only relate to one portion of the work of the

County ; they do not contain the all-important work of the Pipe Rolls, the Charters, Scutages, or the Inquisitions post mortem, without their assistance, the items drawn from the Plea Rolls would have little value, though with them a more perfect history can readily be obtained, since they help to date many Charters.

The Author would have despaired in his attempt to illustrate the history of the Meverill family but for the happy discovery (many years ago) of a MS. in the Dean's library at Lincoln, of which, through the courtesy of the late Dean, he was able to take a careful copy ; it is perhaps the most remarkable work of this kind extant ; it is the work of a Derbyshire man, Henry Kniveton, of the family emanating from the Peak and in all probability being an off-shoot of the great family of Levenot. This family would appear to have assumed the name of Kniveton simply from obtaining possession of that part of Derbyshire which was held by Earls of Chester at Domesday. Henry Kniveton, married one of the daughters of the chief family of Meverill, and his sister married Sir Richard, the last of the Daniels of Tideswell, so that the marriage of Sir Richard's coheir with Thomas Meverill was the marriage of cousins. Henry Kniveton evidently transcribed every Charter he could find relating to his own or the property of the Meverill's, over 500 in number, the first of which was made in the time of Henry II., the last in that of Edward II., the originals of all of which Charters have probably perished, and all knowledge of them had died out but for the accidental deposit of this Leiger, as he called it, into the hands of the Deans of Lincoln ; apparently only because the Rectory of Kniveton (as parcel of Ashbourne) was anciently appropriated to the Deanery of Lincoln.

The compiler evidently thought more of the estates than of the parties to the Deeds, for, although he has transcribed nearly 100 Charters of grants, which he calls "*Scriptæ Elizabethæ*" (probably his step mother), none of them give her family or even her father's name, and but for the fact that she sued all her relations (including Richard Daniel and his wife) for her Dower, their names would not have been given. The connection between the Daniels and Elizabeth Kniveton, Charter No. 51 in this collection, seems to indicate that she must have been a daughter of Sir John Daniel, and that she was endowed by him upon her marriage with Matthew Kniveton, and as in all probability this lady was a second wife and not the mother

of his children, it is not very remarkable that those sons should have become bond with their father for an annual rent of £10 for this valuable property, that being possibly the only method by which he could provide for other members of his family out of its revenues. Of course it may be that that was a mere business transaction, and that there was no relationship between the parties.

This litigation, happily, produced conventions, and so the Charters came to be recorded. The difficulties caused by this reticence is happily supplied to a great extent by the material of the William Salt collections. Several very elaborate pedigrees are given in the Visitations; but none of them give more than the Christian name of the lady. They are very incomplete as regards the Meverill pedigree, but they supply the arms, those of the Griffins, of Colton, with whom the Kniveton's Charters prove that they were closely connected; that gives a clue worth working out.

This family, though contemporary with the Griffins, show a very early connection with the Earls of Chester, which makes it probable that they descended from Lucy, the coheir of Earl Algar, and not from her sister, the Queen of King Griffith, although, ultimately the House of Fitzalan represented both coheirs, the fact that Levenot, their probable ancestors, was of the family of the Earls of Mercia, makes this inquiry the more interesting and important; no doubt like the Knivetons, the Meverills are of the same race, perhaps only through females.

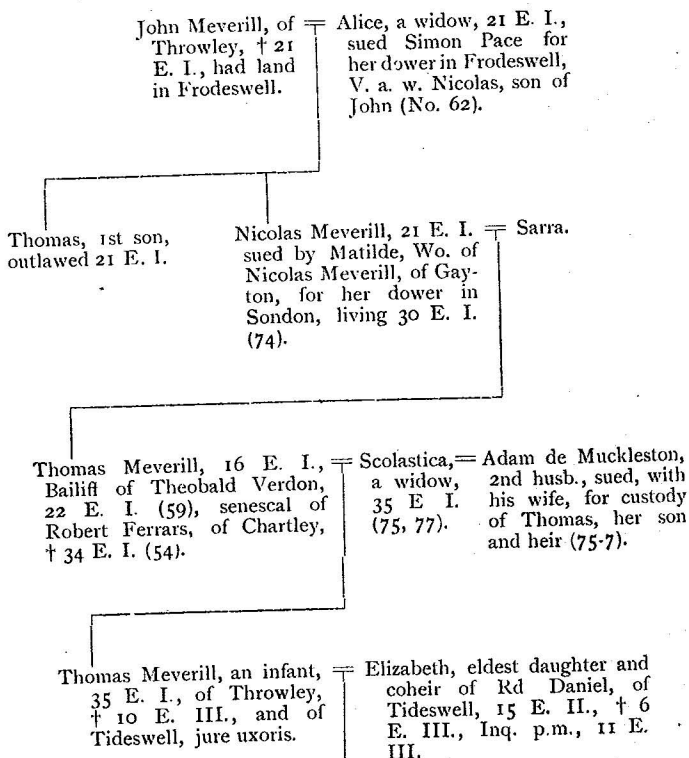
The Kniveton Leiger contains a fund of information from which a pedigree even of this early date can surely be constructed.

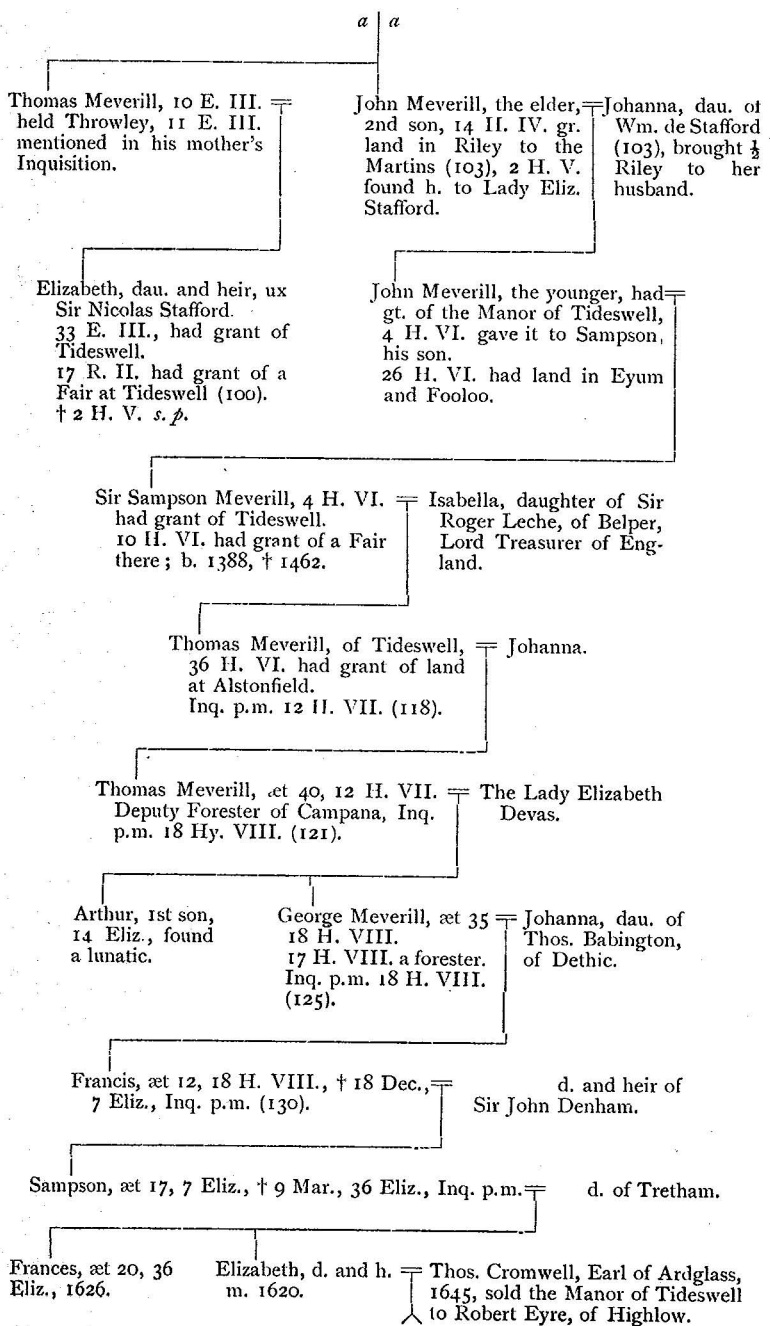
These records take the family back to the time of Stephen, or perhaps of Henry I., and they throw a clear light upon the early history of the family which is of importance to several of the leading Derbyshire families; indeed it is of very distinct value for this purpose, so that it is worthy of the closest study. It tends not only to strengthen the theories which the Author ventured to propound with respect to the origin of the Peverils, as descendants of King Griffith; but it aids in the most difficult and abstruse question of the connection of the Fitzalans with them, and establishes upon a firm basis the legends crystallised by the Poet Shakspeare, respecting Bancho, Thane of Lochobar. In Sections VII. and VIII., the Author established the fact, so important to English History, and so utterly lost sight of, if even known, that the coheirs of the Earl of Mercia

PEDIGREE OF MEVERILL OF TIDESWELL.

No. II. Arms, arg. a griffin segreant sa., beaked and legged or.

5 John. Oliver Meverill was sued by Petronilla Sapientis for lands in Tideswell, which descended to Elizabeth ux. Sir Nicolas Stafford. 9 John he fined for 21 bovates of land in Throwley. (No. 7.)





were represented by the issue of the unhappy Nesta (the Fitzalans), and by the equally unhappy family of the Earls of Chester. The Meverill's pedigree illustrates this fact by the clearest evidence, and proves why it was that Staffordshire historians, were so bewildered by facts which on this basis are perfectly clear and plain. The late Mr. Eyton failed to understand this because his mind had not been directed to the truth respecting the leading issues of her history.

One of the earliest notices of the Meverills is a Charter of Henry Malvoisin, dated according to Eyton and Wroottesly, 1149-59, to Stone Priory, confirming a grant of Nicolas Malvoisin at Colton and Cotes.

These places were subsequently part of the possessions of the Griffins.

In the Staffordshire collections, there is a most valuable account of the fief of Fitzalan of the time of the Red Book, by the late Robert Eyton, which should have given information respecting the Meverills since it dealt with Weston Cotes and Colton, Gayton and Throwley, which were the vills. in which the Meverills were chiefly interested, but unfortunately it throws no light upon them or upon the great question how the Fitzalans became possessed of these Manors, nor does General Wroottesly, who deals with the Ferrar's fee, give any account of the vill. of Sandon, perhaps the most important part of the Meverill's possessions.

Mr. Eyton simply gives the Domesday holder, Roger Montgomery, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, and in some cases Reginald de Bailliol is given, but the details of the mode by which Fitzalan succeeded is avoided, and so is the earlier tenure before the conquest of the Earls of Mercia, who were Fitzalan's actual progenitors and ancestors.

With regard to Cotes, Mr. Eyton suggests that Azelinus, the tenant at Domesday, of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and subsequently of Reginald de Bailliol, was the Patriarch of the several families of Malvoisin or Maycovenant.

Now, seeing that the Meverills were seated in all these Malvoisin territories, it is not unfair to suggest that Azelinus comprised the Meverills family amongst his progeny, if indeed they were not his only descendants, they were evidently of British or Mercian origin, and therefore not unnaturally divided their estates by the ancient English law, equally amongst all the issue, sons and daughters alike, and hence they created the greatest confusion and difficulty in their

history. Although it is quite clear that the Meverills held lands in all these places, it is rarely clear how they devolved upon their posterity, and we are unfortunately in the dark as to the exact relationship of Thomas Meverill, of Throwly, who married the eldest heiress of Richard Daniel, to the chief family of Gayton, and this fact is also clear that the Meverills bore the arms of the Griffins, who also held lands in these places, and therefore it may be assumed that in some manner they were allied to them, that is that Azilinus was a Griffin, or allied with them by marriage.

To some people who have no interest in county history, beyond recording how the newly rich succeeded the old families, it may seem impertinent to travel out of Derbyshire records in order to bridge over (if possible) the great gulf which separates those who held these estates, T.R.E., with their successors of the Norman Conquest, they are content with the ignorant statements of English historians that the effect of the Conquest was to sweep away the whole of the inhabitants of the earlier period and replace them by a new race of people—foreign in blood—though where they came from, and how they travelled to England, they are absolutely silent.

In writing the History of the House of Arundel many years ago, the Author attempted almost for the first time (the work has not yet been properly accomplished) to bridge over the period preceeding the Conquest, and to show the connection between the Norman adventurers and the English people, prior to the Conquest, with their ancient brethren of Brittany and Normandy, and in writing this book, he has endeavoured to pursue that enquiry in the case of Derbyshire and Brittany. In Vol. 4 of this work he devoted considerable space to the elucidation of the Pre-Norman History of the Albinis, who were perhaps the chief of the great families who peopled this County. In the last Section he devoted much space to the history of some of the ancient English families. The Wrights, of Longstone, descended from Levenet. T.R.E, the Okeovers of Okeover and their relations, the Browns of Hognaston, and of others who still hold the Manors which their ancestors held at the Conquest. The difficulty in all these cases has been, that during the troublous period which elapsed shortly after the Conquest, the families were not tenants in chief, but held these estates, nominally, in subjection to the great Abbeys, which in their power and prosperity actually defended the English from the brutal treatment of their Norman

oppressors, and enabled them as tenants of the Abbeys to remain in their homesteads. Others of the old English gentry (for few of them were actually swept away, though some, no doubt, were degraded and ruined) owed their preservation to their Norman conquerors, to whom they surrendered their estates to be held under their sovereignty. This renders the task of unravelling their history far more difficult for not being tenants in chief, they were unnoticed in feudal records, and so became confused with their chief, and it is to their history chiefly that we must resort in order to develop that of their tenants; a most confused and trying process.

There is much in the history of the Lords of the Meverills which can be picked up in monkish cartularies, and it will be found that it crops up in charters and suits, and we are able, with difficulty, in tracing them back to tenants of the Pre-Norman Earls of Mercia, who, no doubt, settled in England, through the aid of King Griffin, who married Edith, daughter of Algar (see pedigrees 254 and 5 of Section VIII.), for the Meverills are clearly an offshoot of the Griffins.

In 1058 Earl Algar was banished, but he was restored to his Earldom through the aid of his brother-in-law, and no wonder that some of them settled in England under the last descendant of Earl Algar. Lucia, sister of Edith, who married the Earl of Chester, and so retained her grip upon her father's estates, so that whilst Wm. Peveril was Lord of the Peak, the Griffins were seated in the neighbouring County of Stafford. Every fact which tends to prove the descent of one family from Pre-Norman times helps in proof of others, and assists in bridging over this important period of our history, and therefore Derbyshire men must excuse the reference to the charters of other counties, for, in fact, they are immensely valuable in the elucidation of their own Derbyshire history.

The great fault of all of our County Historians has been the confining their works strictly to the counties whose histories they were engaged upon, and that very few of them attempt to overstep the limits of Domesday, in fact, so little is that record valued, that shallow writers have presumed to correct and alter it. We possess it, and its possession is invaluable; it must therefore be preserved jealously, and it must be properly utilised, and many facts are recorded from which the truth may gradually and ultimately be obtained.

It is especially interesting to glean all we can from the history of

the Griffins, because from that family, settled in Staffordshire, can be obtained the history of the Poet Shakspeare, the greatest of all Englishmen, closely allied to the Staffordshire Griffins in the early days of the Plantagenets, if, indeed, his family was not of this stock. All this the Author has fully set out in the 4th Edition of "The Gentle Shakspeare," just published. The Shaksperes were allied to the Griffins of Colton in the time of Edward I., and the Meverills were closely connected with them, and in the time of King John, and how much earlier we have yet to learn. These Charters therefore may aid in the still further elucidation of Shakspeare's pedigree. It must not be supposed that the Griffins of Fenny Bently, Wirksworth and other places in Derbyshire, settled in consequence of their alliance with the Staffordshire Griffins; they were akin certainly, but they settled in Derbyshire, through Ralf Griffin, the elder brother of Bartholomew Griffin of Coventry, who was buried there in 1602, becoming Dean of Lincoln, and his son Silvanus Griffin was Dean of Hereford, whilst his son Bartholomew became Rector of Fenny Bently, and so planted the family in Derbyshire. Bartholomew Griffin was well-known to his near cousin, William Shakspeare, and some of his poems have been printed in the "Passionate Pilgrim." This is repeated in this work because the great critics of the present day have, by a conspiracy of silence, simply because they are jealous of the Author's discoveries, contrived to stifle the Author's book for the time, but it will only be for a time, for these discoveries are of such importance to the history of the great Poet that sooner or later they will obtain recognition, and the fabulous accounts of Sidney Lee Furnivall and others, will be relegated to the dust bin. Meanwhile the Author will proceed by every effort in his power to bring out the truth, in spite of the petty conduct of our great critics. Never was there a time when literary men were more easily misled than at the present.

The Charters take the pedigree back to the time of Stephen, and they prove clearly that the Meverills held lands of the descendants of both of the coheirs of the Earls of Mercia.

(1) Perhaps the oldest Charter contained in the Kniveton Leiger (No. 392 f. 78 d., in the Author's copy) is a grant of Thomas de Gayton, with the consent of Hugo, his son and heir, to Peter Meverill of a messuage, which Margaret, mother of Muriel, held in Dower in Gayton, and the croft which lies between the church lands

and those of Arnold the Priest, leading to the Great Duct. It is attested by many of the family.

T., Gerebert Meverill, Richard Meverill, Robert Albo, Roger de Weston, Walter de Salt, Wido de Salt, Bertram Meverill, Rodland Meverill, Thomas Meverill, William Meverill, William Salt and William fil Adam.

It will be noted that the Grantor, like every Welshman, gives himself no surname, though he designates himself territorially, and he gives his son Hugo no other name but that of son of himself. The first six witnesses are all called Meverill, so that the name was then well established, and had been so in the reign of Stephen. The names of the three Sauts or Salts are well-known, they are all found in documents of the King John. Richard Meverill was bail in 5 John for Robert fil Robert de Ferrars in an action of Tort.

Sir William Meverill was Lord of Witgrave in 1 John, and Knight Juror in a suit of the Griffins, concerning the advowson of Colton, Bertram and Rodland were Griffin names at that period. Bertram was living, holding land at Feld in 12 H. III., but Roland was then dead. The date of the Charter was probably late Henry II., since Thomas was grandfather of Stephen Meverill, of the date of 1 John; the witnesses named Salt were probably the Muttons of Salt.

(2) No. 387 f. 77 d, is the only other Charter to which Hugo Meverill was a party. It is unfortunately imperfect. It was a grant by . . . Bellocampo to Hugo Meverill and . . . his wife of 1 virgate of land in Gayton, held by two rustics, W'lugel and Hereward, in fee and inheritance for one Sparrow Hawk, rendered annually together with the offspring (Sequila) of the said rustics.

T., R. de Bellocampo, Galfry de Bellocampo, Gilbert the Priest and R., his brother Gilbert Cleric of Weston, Walter Pincerna, R. Pincegurre, R. Coco and Peter Armiger. The name of the Grantor and of Hugh's wife are wanting, but the name of the first may probably be supplied from the action in 5 and 15 John, when Stephen de Bellocampo was suing (with William Hakepetit) Stephen Meverill, son of Hugo, the Grantee, and when Robert Bellocampo was his attorney.

No. 394 fo. 79, of the Leiger, gives proof that the sons of Hugo Meverill, mentioned in the last Charter, were Richard and Stephen the first being a priest and probably the eldest son). It was a release from Richard Meverill fil Hugo to Stephen, his brother, of one-half

a hide of land in Gayton, and it was attested by Magr. Nicolas de Weston, Magr. Gilbert, his brother (probably the witnesses to the last deed since Weston was Meverill property), Hugo Bagod, John de Saut, Hy. de Blythfield, Nic de Ambrith, Robert de Melewich, Richard Meverill de Gayton, Roger Meverill de Sondon, John Geun de Haywood, Henry de Sondon, Roger Jaumbe de Ambricton.

These two Charters establish the fact that the family held property in Gayton and Sondon. Other Charters show that they also held interests in Throwley, Wulvele, Trentham, Dreynston, Melewich, Weston and Colton, from which it is clear that they had long been seated in that district.

About this period, John Meverill attested a Charter of Richard de Duransthorne to Wm. de Rydware, Gervase Meverill attested one of Peter Durandsthorne Charters, and Robert Meverill attested a Charter of Roger de Redware concerning land in Bossei (Mr. Jeaye's Rydware Cartulary).

S.d., Stephen Meverill attested a Charter of Ralf fil Ivo de Mutton of land in Ingestre.

(No. 404, fo. 81.) Stephen Meverill, with the assent of Nicolas, his son and heir, granted to Rich. Meverill (Clic), his brother, his land of Drengeston, at 1 lb. cim and 3d. rent, saving services to the Earl of Chester.

T., Robert de Lega, Knight, Galf de Gresley, Rado de Mutton, Hugo Bagot, John de Mutton, Hy. de Blythfield, Magr. Nic de Keston (? Weston), Magri. Witham and John de Weston, Adam de Stowe, Magr. Robert de Stowe, Nic and Adam de Drengeston, Nic. and Roger de Ambiton, Jo. and Nic. de Heywood, Wm. de Weston, Rich. de Cytsparister, Rich. Meverill, *Wm. Hakepetit*, Hy. Blundo.

The witness, Wm. Hakepetit, was a defendant in the Bellocampo action, and Stephen Meverill in that of 15 John.

This is a very important deed for Derbyshire history, for it clearly establishes the fact that the Meverills were tenants of the Earls of Chester, and the date of this charter must have been prior to 1181, when the last Earl of Chester died.

Eyton, in his portion of the Red Book of the Exchequer, relating to the Earls of Chester, which is a model for county historians, and in which he made many weighty observations, closes his account by stating that "further observations on a subject so abstruse and

tortuous would lead only to further conjectures," and he adds, "I think I may promise success to any Staffordshire antiquary who shall seek for still further proofs of the ascendancy of the Chester Earls in that County and in the 12th century. There are legends about Chesterton and about Trentham well worthy of full investigation."

Except as regards the history of Derbyshire families in that county the Author makes no pretence of having made exhaustive search, but he is glad to bring to light something of the history of this part of the country in the assurance that it will be of value beyond mere county history. This history of the Griffins and Meverills is only to be regarded as a contribution to the earlier history of England, before the Kingdom of Mercia was divided between the ultimate coheirs of Algar, the Earl, a fact of which Eyton had not dreamt, for he had not traced the history of the Griffins and the Peverils on the one side, and that of the Earls of Chester on the other, both of which curiously became vested in the Fitzalans about 1181, a fact which lightens up the history in one sense, but which tends to obscure it still further, for it necessarily confuses the means by which the families obtained their estates.

The following notes relating to the Meverills are extracted from the Salt Collection :—

(6) In 1 John, Thomas Bunge sued Henry Spanawe for land in Wetegrave, held in villanage of William Meverill; the same year he was a juror, and again in 5 John he was a juror, with Stephen Meverill, in the Griffins' suit concerning the advowson of Colton.

(7) In 5 John, Oliver Meverill was fined as a juror; he was sued by Petronella Sapientis on a plea of land in Frodeswell for one-tenth of a knight's fee. Robert de Stafford appeared for him from 7th Sept., 1206, this is one of the manors which long remained in the family, and which Elizabeth Meverill brought to Sir Nicolas Stafford, of Tideswell—from which it would seem that Oliver was her ancestor. He also had a grand Assize with William Paunton for 1½ virg. in Frodeswell, when Hugh de Acover and Rich. Marshall were his bail. He fined 29th October, 1208, with William Bacun, for 24 bovates in Throwley.

Thomas Meverill, who married Agnes, eldest daughter and coheir of Nicholas Meverill, of Gayton, before 47 Hy. III., was probably son of Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, who in Hilary, 30 E. I., sued

Nicolas Churton, whose father married another sister, coheir of the first-mentioned Nicolas—but this is unproven: nor is the relationship of the two Nicolases known, only that they were both of Gayton.

(8) Stephen Meverill was a juror in 5 John, and same date was bail for Margeria de Gayton for an assize; he was a knight juror; 14 John he had a grand assize, with Stephen de Bellocampo and William Hakepettit, concerning a messuage in Gayton, Robert de Bellocampo being bail for Stephen de Bellocampo.

(9) 1 H. III., Stephen Meverill and William de Gresley were jurors.

(10) 9 H. III., Stephen Meverill and Alice de Lockesly fined for tenement in Leake. (Pipe Rolls.)

(11) 10 H. III., Stephen Meverill and Roger the Huntsman were disseized of land in Cotes. (Gen. Wrottesley's Transcripts.)

Same year, the Abbot of Croxden obstructed road of William Meverill in Throwley. (Gen. Wrottesley's Transcripts.)

(12) 12 H. III., Assize novel disseizen, Alice uxor Bertram Meverill *v.* Geoffry Desmore (St. Maur), 10 acres of land in Feld. (Gen. Wrottesley's Transcripts.)

(13) S.d., William, son of Agnes de Walton, Wm. de Suggenhall, and Alice, his wife, heirs of Alice, daughter of Dese of Walton, sued Magr. John Giffard for land in Walton. (Ibid.)

(14) She also sued Peter de Giffard in 56 Hy. III., with Thos., son of Isabella, of Walton.

(15) S.d. (12 H. III.), Stephen Meverill and Agnes, his wife, Alice de Yoket, and John de Kent, sued Robert de Snellesdale and Wm. Faber for land in Matherfield. (Ibid.)

(16) S.d., Assize of Roland Meverill (attested Charter of Thomas de Gayton, with Hugo, his son, to Peter Meverill), uncle of William, was seized of half a virgate of land in Weston, which Gerebert Meverill (another witness) held on the day he went on his pilgrimage. Gerebert said that Roland had no interest except through William Meverill, parson, of Weston, who gave him that land, and William asserted that it was a lay fee. (Ibid.)

(17) S.d., Walter de Culvehull appealed Thomas Meverill for the death of Hugh, his brother, and of Matilde, his sister. Thomas was found not guilty. He had married the daughter of Hugh, and had an heir by her, a son who was also heir of Hugh. (Ibid.)

(18) 23 H. III., Alditha de Sondon (wife of William de Stafford) sued Richard Meverill for five boyates in Hardwick. (Ibid.)

(19) 25 H. III., Stephen Meverill sued Wm., Earl of Derby, and Agnes, his wife, as heir of the Earl of Chester. (Ibid) In the following year, Stephen was sick at Temisford.

(20) 9 H. III., Stephen de Meverill and Alice de Locksly fined one marc for a tenement in Leke. (Pipe Roll.)

(21) No. 390, fo. 78. 18 H. III., Stephen Meverill de Gayton to Richard, his brother. Rich. released to Stephen his rights of sale in the land of Gayton, for which Stephen granted to Richard four bovates of land in Wulvele and common of pasture in Drengeston, so that he should possess the lands of Wulveley and Drengeston, as the Charter of Stephen testified.

T., Sir Roger and Sir Adam, Caps, Wm. de Gnosale, Hugo Owen Constant'de Certeleg, Nic de Drengeston, Nic de Ambrichton, Hugo of the same, Jo. Grim, Wm. Hakepetit, Wm. de Weston.

(22) No. 398, fo. 79 b. Stephen Meverill, for the good of his soul and for the soul of Agnes, his wife, gave to Crokeston Abbey in free alms half a marc rent, which he received from Wm. de Aldeley, from the rents of Throwley.

T., Sir Robert de Esseburn, Hugo de Acour, Wm. Meverill, of Throwley, Robert de Dornes, Nich., Peter, Roger, Richard, and John Meverill, Wm. de Weston, and Roger de V'ney.

(23) c. 27 H. III., Nicolas Meverill and his parceners held one quarter of a knight's fee in Leke. (Testa. de Nevil.)

(24) No. 389, fo. 78. Ascension Day, 29 H. III., Nic Meverill, with John Kantia, on the one part, and Henry de Leke. Henry released to Nicolas and John 5 m. rent, which he received from Nicolas and John and Robert de Lockesly for his life from the lands of Gellery, in consideration of receiving from each of them 2 m. only, the said Henry to live at table with one of them and to receive 2 m. annually from the other.

T., Sampson de Leke, Magister Peter Meverill, Roger de Lockesly, John de Leke, Robert fil Umfred, Rico de Newland, Richard Meverill.

(25) No. 402, p. 80 b. Thomas de Lockesly bound himself that he would not sell his lands at Leke, which Nicolas Meveril had rendered to him, under a penalty of £40.

T., Sir Wm. de Stafford, Robert de Mere, Thomas de Wermenhill, Thomas de Bromsulf, Robert de Watsal, Roger de V'ney, Roger, his son.

(26) No. 391, fo. 78 d. Magr. Peter Meverill, who received 10 m. from Stephen Meverill, his father, and 20 m. from Nicolas, his brother, released 40 shillings which he received annually from the mill of Gayton.

T., Magr. Nich. de Esseleg, Wm. de Weston, Clic., John, his brother, Robt. de Broceston, Roger and Rich., his uncles, Richard Meverill de Herdwick.

(27) No. 400, fo. 80. Roger Venator, of Cotes, implead Muriel and his heirs concerning land in Cotes, which should descend to him from the mother of Richard fil Euard, which Walter and Thomas, his sons, then held.

(28) No. 401, fo. 80 a. John de Acton confirmed to Nicolas Meverill a virgate in Gayton, which Richard Cytharista formerly held, with suit in the Court of Certileg (Chartley).

T., Robt. de Grendon, then Sheriff of Stafford, Hugo de Acover, Nigel de Longford, Richard de Stretton, Wm. Meverill, Robt. de Sideham, Roger de Whyston, John de Bedinghall, Roger Meverill de Sondon, Rich. Meverill de Gayton, John Meverill, Rector of Tacsale.

(29) No. 395, fo. 79. Galf fil Wm. de Dreynston released 3 virg. in Dreynston to Muriel fil Rich. de Dreynston by the writ of the King, in his Court of the Earl of Chester, and also in the Court at Stafford, for which she gave 6 m., with 6d. annual rent.

T., Magr. Nicolas de Weston, Helie, Dean of Muledis, Wm. de Godington, Regl. de Weston, Galf de la Bonde, Nicolas, his son, Jo. Grim, Nic. de Ambrichton, Nich. de Dreynston, Rich. the Parcar, Rog. Janitor.

(30) No. 388, fo. 77 d. Margerie de Chesehull bound herself that the lands which she had in dower in Wulveley and Dreynston should not be alienated, so that Nicolas Meverill and his heirs should not be able to dispose of the same after her death.

T., John Meverill, Roger de Verney, Adam and Robert de Dreynston, Robert de Lee, Rich. Valenci.

(31) No. 393. 34 H. III. Between John de Acover and Nicolas de Meverill. John gave to Nic. his rights in one virg. in Gayton, concerning which there was pleading between the said John and Rich. Harpud. Nic. gave Jo. five m. (see No. 28).

T., Richard de Stretton, Kt., Wm. Meverill of Frodeswall, Robert de Sideham, Robert de Weston, John de Bodenhall, Roger Meverill

de Sondon, Richard Meverill de Gayton, John Meverill, then Rector of Tacsale.

(32) 37 H. III., Nicolas de Meverill attested a Charter of Wm., Earl of Derby, to Wm. fil Walter de Ridware.

(33) No. 396, fo. 79. 40 H. III., Nicolas de Meverill and Robt. fil Alice de Herdwick. Lease for 16 years of three acres of land in Bradmore, at 18d. rent.

T., Nicolas le Esquire, Richard Meverill, Wm., his brother, Nich. de Brusis, Thomas, his son, Wm. de Weston, Cleric, Philip Banashe, Henry de Wulvely.

Nicolas the Esquire (probably Nicolas Meverill himself), Richard and Wm., his uncles. This is the only proof there is of the relationship of Wm. Meverill. He must have been an aged man, for in 5 John he was attorney for the Griffins in a suit respecting the Church of Colton, when Nicolas Malvoisin disseized Ralf Huse, whose ancestor was enfeoffed at Oswestry and Colton by the first Wm. Fitzalan, representing a coheir of the Earls of Mercia with the Earl of Chester.

(34) No. 399, fo. 80. Fr. Walter Abbot, of Croxesdon (Val. de St. Mary), released to Nicolas Meverill, Lord of Gayton, his right in half a marc rent, which Stephen, father of Nicolas, gave us in free alms, and of 12d. rent, for which the said Nicolas gave them 100s.

T., Robet de Dannes, Magr. Peter Meverill, John le Poer, John Meverill, Robert de Cama.

(35) No. 403, fo. 81. William de Weston, Cleric, granted to Nicolas Meverill the services of Adam Hannalet and Sibel, his wife, and 12d. rent for one virgate in Weston, held of him in marriage of the said Sibel, and also 8 buttas of land in Weston-under-Bradmore, for which he gave William 24s.

T., Sir Richard de Stretton, Sir John de Acton, Roger de Verney, Nic de Ambrichton, Robert de Hattesdon, Richard Meverill, Philip Banester, Robert de Cama.

(36) Richard Meverill, of Mapelton, granted to Thos. Foljambe the land which he held of the grant of Peter Peveril, of Hassop.

T., John Daniel, Adam de Herthill, Robt. Bozon, Robt. le Wine, Wm. Hally, Tom fil Roger Foljambe, Henry and Wm., his brothers, Wm. Martin, Wm. Scotton.

(37) 34 H. III., Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, and Lucy, his wife,

John le Poer and Ann, his wife, ats. Thomas Corbet. (Gen. Wrottesley's Transcripts.)

(38) 47 H. III., Thomas Meverill and Agnes ux Roger de Mercinton and Alianora, his wife, Anna, Isolda, Margaret, Alice, Joan, Elizabeth, and Nicola, sisters of Agnes and Alianora, sued Peter Meverill for two parts of a 6th of a knight's fee in Dreyneston, and two parts of four bovates in Gayton, of which Peter had the custody whilst the said sisters were infants. (Gen. Wrottesley's Transcripts.)

(39) 50 H. III., Wm Meverill, of Standon, a juror. (Ibid.)

(40) 56 H. III., Geoffry de Gresley and Thomas Meverill, of Gayton, held entire knights' fees and were of full age and were not yet knighted.

(41) No. 397, fo. 79 b. Margaret fil Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, granted to Lucy de Say, her mother, all her lands which she had or which she might inherit, in Gayton.

T., Sir Philip de Lega, Rich. de Stretton, Thomas Meverill, of Frokesly, Roger de V'ney, Henry de Wastenys, Rich. fil Nich. de Ambrichton, Wm. Cleric de Weston, Richard Meverill de Gayton, John le Esquire, of Gayton, Adam Clic de Huttosden.

(42) No. 375, fo. 76. 3 E. I., Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, appointed Ralf Monjoie his attorney respecting the Manor of Woodthorpe.

(43) No. 370, fo. 74 d. There was another compact, concerning the division of the Manor of Gayton, at Pasc., 4 E. I., between the parceners and their wives: (1) Thomas Meverill and Agnes, his wife, (2) Roger de Mercinton and Elenor, his wife, (3) Ralf de Monjoie and Isolde, his wife, (4) John de Grendon and Johanna, his wife, and (5) Isabella, and (6) Agneta fil Amicie, on the one part, and the lords of Sondon, Sir Rich. Botiler, Wm. Tromwyn, Wm. de Stafford, and John de Littlebury, which was chiefly an arrangement concerning the separate rights of the lords of Gayton and Sondon in commons, etc. This was attested before Reginald, Rector of Lega, Sir Philip de Draycot, Robert Trilett, then Sheriff of Stafford, Hugo Owen de Occolofacher, Alan, Sheriff of Sondon, Roger de V'ney, Wm de Hodenet, Henry de Eysland, Robert Morsebert.

(44) Nos. 371, fo. 75. Concord between Ralf Monjoie (who had married Isolda, one of the daughters and coheirs) on the one part and Nicolas Meverill, Thomas Meverill, Roger de Mercinton, John

de Grendon, Isabelle Meverill, and others then parcener's defendants, by which Ralf conceded that all the lands and hereditaments which were Nicolas Meverill's should be equally divided into six parts, and the defendants conceded to the said (1) Ralf the messuage which the Lady Lucy Meverill held for her life, (2) Thos. Meverill the messuage in Gayton, (3) Roger Mercinton another messuage in Gayton; Nicolas, who was a monk in the Abbey of Grace Dieu, to be supported by all of them. There is a Charter of St. Margaret the Virgin, 3 E. I. (375, fo. 75 b), by which Nicolas Meverill appointed Ralf Monjoie his attorney to deliver seizen.

(45) No. 405, fo. 81 a (Hil. 5 E. I.). There was a further compact. Wm. Trumwyn, lord of Sondon, concerning his wastes, with Thos. and Agnes Meverill, Roger and Aleanor Mercinton, Ralf and Isolda Monjoie, John and Johanna Grendon, Henry and Isabella Kniveton, and Richard and Agnes Draycot; and at the same date John de Littlebury agreed with the said co-partners respecting ten acres of land in Sondon, and by another Charter of the same date Rich. le Botiler confirmed as to nine acres in Sondon.

(46) No. 372, fo. 75, St. Dunst., Epis. 13 E. 1. There is some difficulty about the wives. It would seem that Matilde was widow of Nicolas Meverill and that she was then the widow of John de Liteleburg, who was one of the lords of Sondon in 2 E. I. She released her right to dower in six acres of land in Great and Little Sondon to Henry Kniveton. Who, then, was the Lady Lucy Meverill? It was hardly likely that she was the wife of the Monk of Grace Dieu. She is called Lucy Say in one charter. She was probably the lady designated as the Amicia of Nicolas, and mother of Isabella and Agneta, his daughters. Isabella married Henry Kniveton, the writer of this leiger, so that possibly he has purposely confused it.

(47) There is a Charter, No. 397, fo. 79 d., undated, by which Margaret, daughter of Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, granted to Lucy de Say, her mother, all the lands which she should have or might inherit in Gayton. There is a Charter of Rad de Grendon to Henry de Kniveton, dated St. Andrew's, 1 E. II., to which Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, was a witness; this is important inasmuch as it is not clear who was the parent of Thomas Meverill, of Tydeswell.

(48) No. 378, fo. 76, is an undated Charter from (1) Thomas Meyerill and Agnes, his wife, (2) Roger Mercinton and Alinora, his

wife, (3) Ralf Monjoie and Isolda, his wife, (4) Richard de Draycott and Agnes, his wife, to Henry Kniveton and Isabella, his wife, which is attested by Robert de Monjoye, Nic Meverill, and others.

(49) No. 382, fo. 76 d, no date. Thomas de Meverill, of Gayton, and Agnes, his wife, confirm to Magr. Thomas de Staundon a capital messuage in Gayton, with lands there and in Leke, for £20 rent.

T., Regl. Lega, William Caueswell, Nic, Prior of St. Thomas the Martyr, and others.

(50) No. 381, fo. 76 d. Thos. de Staundon, Rector of Staundon, released to (1) Roger de Mercinton and Eleanor, his wife, (2) Rad de Monjoie and Isolda, his wife, (3) Henry de Kniveton and Isabella, his wife, (4) John de Grendon and Johanna, his wife, and (5) Agnes, widow of Richard Tylington, his rights in the lands of Leke, belonging to the five coheirs.

(51) No. 420, fo. 86 b (St. Oswald, 13 E. I.). Elizabeth, widow of Matthew, father of Henry de Kniveton, released to him her rights in dower in her late husband's lands.

No. 441, fo. 92, between the same parties. The said Elizabeth Kniveton gave to the said Henry a bond to preserve him from payment of an annual rent of 10 m., which he owed to Sir John Daniel for the great mill of Wormenhill, for which farm the said Henry, with Ralf and William, his brothers, were bound to the lord, Wm. de Hauton.

No. 424, fo. 88 (Hil., 26 E. I.). A further release, between the same parties, reciting the said Elizabeth had sued Rich. fil John Daniel and Joan, his wife, and others, for her dower, and in consideration of an assignment of dower, she released her said claims. The said Johanna, wife of Rich. fil John Daniel, was one of the daughters of the said Matthew Kniveton; Avice, wife of Jordan de Snitterton, was her sister.

At the same date Rich. Daniel attested another Charter of the same Elizabeth Kniveton.

(52) c. H. III. or E. I. Thomas Meverill attested a Charter to Sir Philip Chetwynd.

(54) 27 E. I. Thomas Meverill was sued by Adam Pye, and same date Nicolas Meverill was sued by Robt. Fat.

(55) M. 1 E. I., Wm., son of Jo. Littlebyri, Rd. le Botiler, and Wm. Trumwyne, sued John de Grendon, Thomas Meverill, Roger de Merchinton, Thomas de Wytemore, and others for trespass at Sondon.

M. 2 and 3, E. I. Margaret de Ferrars, Countess of Derby, sued Thomas Meverill for wardship of Agnes, niece and heir of Wm. Herberd.

T, 7 E. I. Alianora, widow of Robt. de Ferrars, of Certele, sued Thos. Meverill and Agnes, his wife, for dower there and in Weston. Defendants called to warranty John, son of Robt. Ferrars, who gave them the lands. John is an infant; the king set aside the suit, but the Prior of St. Thomas appealed to a jury.

(56) Easter, 12 E. I., Matilde, Wo. of John Littlebury, sued Thomas Meverill and Agnes, his wife, Roger de Mercynton and Alianora, his wife, Ralf de Monjoie and Isolda, his wife, John de Grendon and Joan, his wife, and Henry de Kniveton and Isabella, his wife, for her dower in Great and Little Sondon; the defendants called to warranty Joan, the widow of Wm. le Botiler (in Lancashire), and Wm. de Pykestock (in Staffordshire), by a deed of Richard le Botiller, the grandfather of the heir. She also sued Nicolas de Meverill and Sarra, his wife, for land in the same vill.

(57) Mich., 12-3 E. I., Thomas Meverill and Agnes, his wife, Roger de Merchinton and Alianora, his wife, Ralf de Monjoie and Isolda, his wife, John de Grendon and Joan, his wife, Richard de Tylington and Agnes, his wife, sued Joan, widow of Wm. le Botiler, the custos of the person of Nicolas, the son and heir of Wm. le Botiler, and Wm. de Pickstoc, custos of the other part of the lands in Great and Little Sondon claimed by Matilde, widow of John Littlebury, as her dower; they also sued Roger, son of the said John Littlebury.

(58) 10 E. I., the Prior of St. Thomas', near Stafford, and Thos. Meverill were sued for land in Gayton, of which they pleaded they were enfeoffed by Robert de Ferrars, formerly Earl of Derby.

(59) 16 E. I., Thomas Meverill was bailiff of Theobald Verdun and others for Morton de Say, who had approved it according to the Statute of Merton.

(60) 20 E. I., Nicolas Meverill on a jury, and 21 E. I., surety for Robert de Burgo.

(61) 21 E. I., Thomas Meverill, of Gayton, was in default for not appearing before the jurors of the County of Stafford when duly summoned, and was outlawed.

(62) 21 E. I., Alice, widow of John Meverill, of Frodeswell, sued

Simon Pare and Cecelia, his wife, for her dower, who called Nicolas, son of John, to warranty.

(63) 22-3 E. I., Thomas Meverill, of Gayton, was sued by Thos. fil Robert Ferrars for not accounting properly as his bailiff for Chartley. In 21 E. I. he paid £140 17s. 4d. for arrears of such stewardship from the 7th E. I.

11 E. I., Margaret, Wo. of Rich. le Barbur, sued Jo. Carbonel for her dower in Brocton, and for 15 acres held by Wm. Meverill.

16 E. I., Matilde, Wo. of John Littebyrie, released her dower in six acres of land in Sondon to Henry Kniveton and Isabella, his wife. Same date, concord between Henry Kniveton and Thomas Meverill, concerning rents in Gayton.

29 E. I., Wm. de Stafford, son of Alda, daughter of Warine Vernoun, claimed land in Great Sondon against many defendants, Thomas Meverill and others.

Nos. 376, 377, 379, and 380, fo. 76 a and b. The parceners released to Henry Kniveton and Isabella, his wife, their rights in Rowod Selvis, in Gayton.

(64) No. 384, fo. 77. The following Charter was made in the 16th E. I., before the same witnesses who attested the last Charter, by which the said Robert de Standon confirmed to Thomas Meverill the lands which he had of the grant of the said Thomas Meverill and Agnes, his wife, in Gayton for his life, of Roger de Mercinton and Alenor, his wife, Ralf de Monjoie and Isabel his wife, Henry de Kniveton and Isabel, his wife, John de Grendon and Johanna, his wife, Agnes de Tylington, and the heirs of the said Agnes, former wife, as aforesaid.

(65) No. 385, fo. 77 d. The five co-parceners confirmed the Charter of Thos. de Standon, who released to them his rights in the land of Leke.

120, fo. 25. Matthew de Kniveton granted to Henry, his son and heir, and Isabel fil Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, his whole manor of Woodthorpe, in tail, with remainder to Matthew.

T., Robert le Breton, Walter de Reibof, Stephen de Irton, Jordan de Sn'tton, Thomas Meverill, Roger de Mercinton, Ralf de Monjoie, Jordan de Sn'tton, Attorney to deliver seizen.

Mr. Jeayes gives this Charter from Lansdown, 607 and 8, Nos. 2,702 and 3 of his book.

(66) No. 369, fo. 74 d. St. Mich., 13 E. I., at Crokesden,

concord between Thomas Meverill and Agnes, his wife, and Henry Kniveton and Isabel, his wife, concerning suit of Court in Gayton, Henry and Isabella to pay 3s. 4d. during their lives, with powers of distraint.

T., Rad de Monjoie, Rad de Burgo, Stephen de Ireton, Jordan de Sn'tton, Thos. de Mapelton, Robert de Pipe, Rico Clic.

(67) Fine, Mich., 16 E. I., by which Henry Kniveton conceded to Thomas Meverill a rent of 4s. for land held by William Grangia.

(68) No. 416, fo. 85 b. Serlo de Grendon to Serlo fil Ralf de Monjoie land in Bradley.

T., Henry fil Sewell, Robert Breton, Henry de Brailsford, Leodgar de Dive, William de Meverill, Walter de Montgomery, Rad de Bakepuz, Galf de Archesia, Jo. Ireton, Wm. de Burgeum, Robert de Moris.

(69) No. 411, fo. 84 d., St. Mich., 31 E. I., the same Ralf granted land in Gayton to Henry de Kniveton and William, his son.

T., Ralf de Monjoie and Serlo, his son, Jo. Swein, Wm. de la Grange, Ralf Clic.

(70) No. 417, fo. 85 b. Rad de Monjoie to Wm. fil Henry de Kniveton and Agnes Selvein.

T., Hugh de Meynil, Rad de Braylesford, Nic de Longford.

(74) The Vigil of the Nativ. B.V.M., 27 E. I. Nic de Meverill, a juryman, was sick.

30 E. I. Assize of Nicolas Meverill, of Gayton, and Thomas, his son, had disseized Nicolas Marchinton of land in Gayton; Nicolas said that he entered through Richard Meverill, who was alive and was not mentioned in the writ.

Same date, Lucy, widow of Thomas Belnbroke, sued Nicholas Meverill and Sarra, his wife, for a messuage and five bovates of land in Gayton, of which Richard Meverill, her grandfather, whose heir she was, was duly seized.

(75) H., 34 E. I., Adam de Muckleston and Scolastica, his wife, sued for land in Frodeswell, the dower of her former husband, Thos. Meverill, v. Wm. le Hore, who said that he held $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the inheritance of Thomas, son and heir of Thomas Meverill, for thirty years, who called to warranty the said Thomas, the heir, who was in the custody of the said Adam and Scolastica.

(76) Mich., 34 E. I., Rich. de Draycot had entered the Park of Thos. Meverill, in Throwley, and had taken deer therefrom.

(77) Hil, 35 E. I, Constance, widow of Wm. de Audele, sued Adam de Muckleston and Scolastica, his wife, for the custody of Thomas fil Thomas Meverill, as his father held his land of her by military service.

(78) M., 2 E. II., Rich. fil Rich. Meverill fined 20s. for license of concord with Richard Meverill de la Bolde and Margaret, his wife, respecting tenements in la Bolde and Ambryghton (Amerton). By a fine the uses were declared to be that the land should go to Richard fil Rich. in tail, with remainder to John Roger and William, his brothers successively in tail. The land was two messuages, six bovates of land, four acres of meadow, ten acres of wood and 20s. rent.

(79) 3 E. II., Thomas Meverill, of Frodeswell, was indicted for the murder of John fil Richard le Hore, of Frodeswell, and was hung.

(80) Hil., 7 E. II., Juliana, widow of Roger de Burgeton, sued Margaret Meverill for her dower in six acres of land in Ulsale.

(81) Easter, 9 E. II., Ralf de Grendon bought a messuage four bovates and four acres of land in Gayton and Sandon from Nicolas de Meverill, of Gayton, and Sarah, his wife. Ralf de Grendon sold this land to Henry Sandback, and Nicolas and Sarah did not appear when summoned, and were attached by William Meverill and William, his brother.

(82) 15 Edward II., Inq. p.m., Richard Daniel it was found that his heirs were Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Meverill, Catherine, wife of Thomas Curzon, and Johanna Daniel.

(83) 15 E. II., Thomas de Furnival, junr., took by force 16 pigs from the house of Thomas Meverill, of Throwley.

(84) 16 E. II., Thomas Meverill, of the County of Derby, fined with Andrew Foljambe, of Derby, bail, John de Munkennie, Thos. Deveroys and Thos. de Dulwe, of Hereford.

(85) 3 E. III., Robert Sulby granted 6s. rent out of Riley to Roger North, of Bubbinghill, and Dionisia, his wife.

4 E. III., in a quo warranto it was found that Elizabeth, the wife of Richard de Marchington, Catherine, the wife of Reginald de Marchington, and Johanna, the wife of John Turvill, were the coheirs of the Manor of Tideswell.

(87) East., 10 E. III., Thomas Meverill sued Joan, widow of John Lestrangle, for illegal distress at Throwley. Joan pleaded that Thomas held the Manor of Throwley of her by homage and fealty, 10s. scutage

and 6s. 8d. rent, and that she was seized thereof by the hand of plaintiff's father, and that the said rent was in arrear for 11 years.

(88) 11 E. III., inq., p.m. (No. 21). Eliz., wife of Thomas Meverill, held the day she died one-third of Tideswell Manor of the honour of High Peak. She died 6 E. III. In Wormhill, lands, etc., held of Johanna (? Phillippa), the Queen, as of the Castle of Peak, by serjeantry. Thomas, her son and heir, aged 22. (Bateman Charter and Harl, 2,223, fo. 101).

(89) 21 E. III., No. 33. Reginald de Marchington and Katherine, his wife, enfeoffed Nicolas de Marchington of one-third part of Tideswell Manor and one-third part of Wormhill Mill.

(Note.—This would appear to be intended for Nicolas Stafford, who according to Erdswick held two parts of the inheritance).

25 E. III., the Prior of St. Thomas, near Stafford, sued Reginald de Lee for the wardship of the heir of Thomas Meverill, who held his land from him by military service.

29 E. III., Philip de Bassilieu, cleric, granted land in Eyam, formerly Richard Leyhum, to John fil Henry de Moneyash and Matilde, his wife, in tail, remainder to Henry fil, Jo. fil Henry and his heirs born of Mariota, remainder to Nicolas Meverill.

T., John de Stafford, William Note, John le Chapman, John de Bagschaw, John del Dale, at Eyam (Bowles)

There are a number of Charters, given in Mr. Jeayes' book, relating to an Eyam family (which was no doubt an off-shoot of the Throwley family).

Amongst Col. Coke's Brookhill Charters, which will require close attention in the history of that place, 8 H. IV., Wm. Meverill was of Eyam, and his Charter was attested by Walter and John Meverill, 17 H. VI., Walter Meverill attested several Eyam Charters, Thomas, heir in Hy. VI. and Hy. VII., and there can be little doubt that they descended from Nicolas of the Charter of 29 E. III. Their history will probably aid in the elucidation of a branch of the Stafford family of the baronial house who were seated here in the 15th century.

(94) East., 33 E. III., No. 113. Sir Nicolas Stafford and Alice (? Eliz.), his wife, sued Thomas Foljambe for suit to the mill of Tideswell.

38 E. III., Tr., The Executors of the Will of Robert Ferrars, Kt., of Chartley, sued Henry de la Pole and John Meverill for the abduction from Gayton, of Thomas, son and heir of Nicolas Marchinton, whose marriage belonged to them.

42 E. III., Sir Nicolas Stafford sued William and John, sons of John Meverill, Robert Spencer, and others, for trespass at Throwley, who did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest them.

43 E. III., Robert, son of Roger and Agnes, his wife, released rent of 6s. in Riley, to John Stafford, of Eyam.

(95) 6th Feb., Patent, 1 Rich. II., m. 29. Inspeximus of two Charters in favour of Nicolas Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth, his wife, one of the kinswomen and heirs of Richard Daniel, and in favour of Robert Turvill, the other of the kinsman and heirs, of a Charter dated 8th May, 33 E. I., confirming two Charters, one dated Marlberg, 18th March, 9 John, being a grant in fee simple to Thos. Armiger of the Manor of Tideswell, the other dated at Westminster, 13th Feb., 11 H. III., being a like grant to William, son and heir of Daniel Pincerna of the mill of Wormhill.

(96) 8th July, Patent, 1 Rich. III., m. 18. Inspeximus of Charter given to Thomas Meverill, kinsman and heir of the undermentioned, of Letters Patent, dated 6th Feb., 1 Rich. II., inspecting Charter of 8th May, 33 E. I., confirming Charters of Thomas, Esquire, and William fil Daniel Pincerna, with declaration that Thomas Meverill was cousin and heir of the said Thomas, the Esquire (see Woolly, 6,666).

(97) 12th July, 1 R. II., certificate that the Manor of Tideswell was of the ancient demesne of the Crown.

These extraordinary and curious Patents can only be explained by the fact, as stated in the certificate of 12th July, 1 R. II., that the Manor of Tideswell was of the ancient demesne of the Crown, and therefore that it could not be lawfully granted out to a subject except for the life of the reigning king, and the successive confirmations of the grant to the Daniel family and to the Meverills show the jealousy with which this transaction was watched by the Exchequer Judges.

(98) Trin., 6 R. II., Thos. de Marchynton, Chev. ats. Hy. de Brailsford, illegal distress at Throwley in 5 R. II. Thos. said that Thos. Meverill held of his father, Nicolas (? Marchynton), the Manor of Throwley, by hom. and fealty and scutage of 20s. and 6s. rent, and Nic. (? Marchinton) was seized of the said services by the hands of the said Thomas Meverill, who was true tenant, and from Thomas the Manor descended to one Elizabeth, then the wife of Nicolas de Stafford, Chev., as daughter and heir, and the homage, rent and services of the said Nicolas and Eliz. were in arrear for 35 years after

the death of the said Thomas Meverill up to the distress (*i.e.* to the year 1347), so that Thomas Meverill must have died about 20 E. III.

(99) M., 8 R. II., Nicolas de Stafford, Chev., and Elizabeth, his wife, sued Rich. Dawson, of Tunsted, for suit to the Mill of Tideswell.

M., 9 R. II., Nicolas de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth, his wife, sued Wm. Bayley, of Sutton, for 24 acres of land and 12 acres of meadow, of which Elizabeth, the daughter of Richard Daniel, Knight, the cousin of Elizabeth, and whose heir she was, was seized, and they gave the descent that Elizabeth, the plaintiff, was the daughter of Thomas, son of Elizabeth Daniel.

Patent, 1 Rich. II., 3rd part. Confirmation to Nicolas de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth, ux., one of the cousins and heirs of Richard de Daniel, Robert Turvil, the other coheir, as in 33 E. III., c. 37.

15 and 16 Rich. II., Nicolas de Stafford, Kt., a fair at Tideswell.

Patent, 3 H. IV., m. 6, 1st part. Confirmation to Elizabeth Stafford, widow of Nicolas Stafford, Kt., in fee, as given to Thomas, the Esq., by Charter, 9 King John and 11 H. III., confirmed to Richard Daniel by Charter, 33 E. I., and confirmed to the said Nicolas and Elizabeth by Patent, 1 Rich II., at £7 farm.

2 H. V., Patent, 1st part. John Meverill, cousin and heir of Elizabeth, widow of Sir Nic. de Stafford, lands, mill, etc., at £7 rent, as in 3 H. IV. and 15 H. VI., part 21.

Erdswick states that the Meverills bought two parts of the Manor of Tideswell from Sir Nicolas Stafford, but the above Charters show that, subject to the King's rights of ancient demesne, they had an absolute right by inheritance. Still, looking at the fact that the Bishop of Exeter succeeded Sir Nicolas for a time, it is quite possible that the Meverills were compelled to obtain his interest by purchase. Unfortunately, the old Demesne Rolls seem to be lost, so that no record remains relative to these transactions.

(101) 7th Nov., 7 H. IV., Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, released to Nic. Rotur his rights in Tideswell, Wormhill, and one bov. and a forestry in High Peak.

(102) c. Hy. IV., Nicolas and Thomas Meverill held land in Chapel en le Frith (? as to this).

(103) 20th Aug., 11 H. IV., John Meverill, sen., and Johanna ux. John Meverill, junr., their son, grant to Thomas Martin half a mess. and half of two bov. in Riley, which they had by hereditary right after the decease of Wm. de Stafford, father of Johanna.

T., John de Stafford, Esq., Nic. Martin, Rich. de Standon, Wm. Meverill, Jo. de Legham.

(104) 8 H. V., Jo. fil Thomas Martin, of Eyum, grant to Nic. Martin, of Foxlow, a mess. and two bov. in Riley, and a rood in the field of Eyum.

T., John de Stafford, Hy. de Stafford, of Middleton Cliff, Walter Meverill.

(105) 2 H. VI., Elizabeth, widow of Thurston del Bower, husbandman. This is the supposed knight, whose representative of the present day, Mr. Bower Brown, annexed the fine tomb in Tideswell Church, which was probably erected to a member of the Royal Family, and placed a modern brass upon it, dubbed his ancestor a knight, and dedicated the chapel to him. Thurston Bower was a substantial yeoman, in this record being styled a husbandman, in one an esquire, but in none does he appear as a knight.

(106) 4 H. VI., John Meverill granted to Sampson, his son, and Isabella, his wife, daughter of Roger Leche, his Manor of Tideswell, in tail, with ultimate remainder to himself. In 7 H. VI. he attested several of Bower's charters. (Bateman Charter.)

(107) 9 H. VI., Sampson Meverill, of Tideswell, held a free tenement in socage, val. £8 per ann.

(108) 10 Hy. VI., John Meverill held 26s. 8d., soc. in Spondon.

(109) 10 and 11 H. VI., Sampson Meverill had a fair, etc., at Tideswell and was assessed in 10 H. VI. for land in Tideswell.

(110) Patent, 11 H. VI., part I., m. 16, Sampson Meverill, Kt., and Isabella, his wife, land, etc., in Tideswell.

(111) 16 H. VI., John Coudale, of Tideswell, and Emma, his wife, granted to Roger Milne a messuage and 21 a. of land in Litton, which they had for their lives from John Stafford.

T., Wm. Purslow, Vicar of Tideswell, Thomas Leech, Robert Woodrow.

(112) 17 H. VI., Richard and William Meverill.

18 H. VI., Sept. 6th, Sampson Meverill attested an Okeover Charter.

(113) 20 H. VI., John Meverill held land in Eyam and Fooloo.

24 and 26 H. VI., Sampson Meverill attested Vernon and Bradburn Charters.

(114) Mich., 36 H. VI., Thomas Meverill, Esq., and Thomas Wakefield, fined with Robert Lopham and Agnes, his wife, for land in Ilom Waterfall, Boterdon and other places.

(115) 10, 11, 12 E. IV., Thos. and John Meverill held land in Eyam and Fooloo and in Bugsworth.

9 E. IV. Nicolas Montgomery granted to Thomas Meverill the Manor of Roddesly in exchange for the Manor of Mackley. In default of carrying it out an annuity to be granted to Nicolas, son of Thomas Meverill. (Wolley, IX. 22.)

(116) 9 E. IV. Rich Knyfton, Edward Bagshaw and Thomas Taylor, Vicar of Tideswell, grant to Thomas, fil and heir of Thos. Meverill and Johanna, his wife, a messuage in Tydeswell.

T., Christopher Bagshaw, of Tideswell. (Bateman, No. 111.)

13 E. IV. Thomas Meverill appointed Hy. Matloc and Alexr. Fallas his attorneys, to enter the Manors of Throwley, Frodeswell, Botterton and Stanhope, in Staffordshire, and his Manor of Tideswell, lands in Spondon, $\frac{1}{2}$ Manor of Stapley, Co. Chester, and all the estates of his father, Sir Sampson Meverill, and to deliver seizen thereof to Nic. Fitzherbert, Rich. Knyfton, Edward Bageshaugh, Thomas Tailour, Vicar of Tideswell, and Richard Blacklach, clerk. (Addl. MS. 27513.)

(117) 2 R. III. Hugo Eyre and Richard Eyre, cousins and heirs of Robert Stafford, land in Derbyshire. (Bateman, 114. See p. 114, Section VIII.)

(118) 12 H. VII., 16th April, Inq. p.m. Thomas Meverill. He died on the Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin; Thomas, his son, aged 43, holding Tideswell valued at £4 (it belonged to the ancient demesne of the Crown), at fee farm of 60s., as appears by Letters Patent of Henry VI., 2 messuages and 60a. of land, and a water mill in Tideswell, Weston and Wormhill, valued 12d., held of the King as of the honour of Peveril, by the service of keeping the King's wild beasts in the forest of his champayne of High Peak.

(119) 13 H. VII., Thos. Meverill was Deputy Forester for Compana.

(120) Easter, 14 H. VII., Thomas Meverill fined as Trustee for Fulford and other places.

(121) 11th Jan., 18 H. VII., Inq. p.m. Thomas Meverill, Esq., died 4th October last, George, son and heir, æt 15. Tideswell Manor held of the King as of the Manor of High Peak, at fee farm, rent 6s. per annum; £20 also Throwley and Frodeswell.

(122) 6 H. VIII., Xpofer Meverill.

15 H. VIII., George Meverill, of Throwley, gave to trustees his Maner of Frodesly and land there and at Throwley and Spondon to

the uses of an indenture made upon the marriage of his son and heir to the daughter of Humph. Booland. (Addl. 27,515).

(123) 7, 11, 15 H. VIII., William Meverill was of Taddington.

(124) 17 H. VIII., heirs of Thomas, for Ashop Forest.

(125) 16 and 17, H. VIII., George Meverill, Esq., and Edward, Foresters of Hassop.

(126) 11th Nov., 10 H. VIII., Inq. p.m. Wm. Litton, Esq., died 26th Aug., 9 H. VIII., Robert, his son, æt. 6, holding Litton Manor, nine mess., 200 acres land, 300 acres pasture, 50 acres meadow, 100 acres wood, rent 39s. 9d., and the Manor, with two mess., in Tunsted, held of the Duchy of Lancaster; one mess. in Tideswell, held of George Meverill, of the Manor of Tideswell, rent 6d., obquarter one mess. in Little Hucklow, held of the Earl of Salop, of the Manor of Baslow, value £13.

17 H. VIII., Forest of Compania, George Meverill, Esq., on jury (Duchy Office, Forest Roll, *Reliquary*, VIII., p. 39).

(127) 9th April, 18 H. VIII., Inq. p.m., George Meverill, of Throwley, Stafford, died Christmas Day last, Francis, his son and heir, aged 12 years. Tideswell Manor, of the Castle of High Peak, in soc., rent £3, value £20. Tideswell, Wheston and Wormhill, two mess., four cott., one water-mill, held of the High Peak, in socage by service of keeping the King's deer in his forest of High Peak, value 10 m. In Spondon, one mess., four cott., four tofts, 27 acres of land, two acres mead., four acres past., rent 12s., 12d. held of the heirs of Knyveton by the service of a pair of gloves or one penny, value 39s. 6d. Fines and wills.

(128) 18th June, 19 Hy. VIII., Inq. p.m. Roger Leche, of Chatsworth, he held at Wheston two mess. and 13 acres of land at Tideswell, one messuage, one bovat and 14½ acres of land held of Johanna Peverill, widow of George Meverill, deceased, as of the Manor of Tideswell, rent 3s. 4d., val. 20s.

(129) 28th Nov., 2 Eliz., Inq. p.m. Edward Eyre died July 3rd and 4th P. and M., Anthony, his son and heir, æt 41, *inter alia* held three mess., seven cottages, 40 acres land, 40 acres meadow, held of Francis Meverill, of his Manor of Tydeswell, rent 11s. 11d., value £3.

(130) 13th April, 7 Eliz., No. 115, Inq. p.m. Francis Meverill died 20th Dec. ult. Sampson, son and heir, æt 17. Darlton Manor, Stafford, 100 acres land held in cap. £10.

(131) 1st Aug., 14 Eliz., No. 27, Inq. lunacy of Arthur Meverill, 2nd Nov., 8 Eliz., George, his brother and heir, æt 30, in Staffs., Austerfield, and land in tenure of Hy. Milward, in Waterfall, Jo. Glossop and others in Caldun.

(132) 13 Eliz., Inq. p.m. Humphrey Barley, land in Tideswell, held of Sampson Meverill, and in Eyam, of High Peak.

(133) 4th Oct., 17th Eliz, No. 21. Inq. p.m., of Anthony Eyre, *inter alia*, Tideswell, three messuages, seven cottages, 40 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, held of Sampson Meverill, rent 11s. 11d., value £3.

(134) 4th Jan., 17 Eliz., No. 18. Inq. p.m., Edward Bruerton held in Weston and Tideswell half of two messuages and 16 acres 1 rood of land of Sampson Meverill, half of 5s. and 10d. rent, value 20s., and other land of the same value.

1573. Thomas Meverill, of Throwley, had 2 legitimate sons, Nicolas and Thomas, and 4 bastards, Sampson, Edward, Humphrey and John. (*Reliquary*, Vol. X.)

In 1626, Robert Meverill mentions his brother, Ralf, in the settlement of his estates.

(136) 18th Dec., 37 Elizabeth, No. 87. Inq. p.m., Sampson Meverill died 9th, March 26 Elizabeth. Francis, son and heir, æt 20.

Tideswell Manor and 30 messuages, 2 water mills, 1 fullers mill, 10 tofts, 30 gardens, 10 fisheries, 400 acres land, 200 acres mead, 300 acres pasture, 20 acres wood, 50 acres heath, £8 rents held of the Queen, valued £13 6s. 8d.

Lands in Nottingham, Darlton and Throwley, Staffordshire, Frodeswell, and in Hertford, Wilts and Cheshire, by Charter, etc.

1626. April 11th. Robert Meverill settled the Manor of Tideswell on his daughter, Elizabeth Cromwell.

1645. Robert Eyre, of Highlow, bought the Manor of Tideswell from Lord Cromwell by fine. (Qy. 1654)

To one who will study rightly these Charters, it will be apparent that the history of the Meverills is of great value to Derbyshire, and assists in no slight degree the effort to get at the descendants of the pre-Norman families who held the Peak and a great part of Derbyshire under the Earls of Mercia, for they were connected with all of them. The frequent mention of Levenet and Leurice in Domesday shows that they were of royal rank, for even then they were called the King's Thaness, and there can be little doubt that they were

princes of the ancient earls, and most probably their relations. Those who desire to study this early history must revert again and again to these Charters, and the notes relating to them; they are collected (chiefly in Chapter XXIV. of Section VIII.). There can be no doubt of their connection with the Peverils and with the Knivetons, who also were near akin to them, and through that connection we find the Meverills settled at Tideswell, and most curiously there and in Staffordshire (where we first find them), they bore the Griffin arms. It may be that they originally obtained their rights from the descendants of Lucia, Countess of Chester, sister of the Queen of Griffin of Powis. Yet they must have adopted the Griffin coat from some direct connection with them. Whatever may be the origin of the two names, Meverill and Peveril, and whether ultimately derived from the same root is not yet clear; but it may safely be averred that the families are identical, and therefore every fragment of history relating to either of them must be imported into the story, in order to get the fullest light upon it, and especially must the history of the Wrights and Levenets be examined, and with them that of the Okeovers of Okeover. Each history tends to illustrate the other, and no part of them can be lightly thrown aside by anyone desirous of studying the history of the English people—the Angles or Gaels, prior to the Conquest, for this is a question not merely affecting Derbyshire history, but that of the whole middle England.

Most unfortunately, through an oversight, not unlikely in searching through a couple of hundred vols. of Notes, the Author failed to examine the early volumes of this work, with a view to illustrate the Wright pedigree. Vol. I. contains four entries from the Pipe Rolls of especial value; 6 Richard I., Elye, the Parson, with William fil Baldwyn viewed the works upon the Castle of Nottingham on the part of the King, which pretty clearly shows that he was not in orders but simply a clerk. This was during King Richard's captivity, and three years after the Prince John had despoiled him of his Deanery of Bakewell; he was in fact a layman, and this work was probably given him in compensation. In 2 John, Elias fil Elie fined 40s. for having 4 bovates of land in Cornhill (? Corniley), in Bradley, where Orme, the Okeover ancestor, had land which he had cultivated from the waste. It would be most valuable to ascertain whether this was the dispossessed parson or his son—it was one of them, for the Fabers or Wrights were of this parish as well—the 3rd John, "Elias, the

Dean, fined C. marks for having his (Amica and his children and servants) with 'Plevina' (? Plebania), so that they would be quit in the King's Court concerning those things which pertain to the Court of the King."

This raises a very important and interesting question respecting the legal status of the Deans or Parsons of Bakewell of this family. Having regard to the finding of the jury in 3 Ed. I., that the Church of Bakewell, with its chapels (including Longstone), was the inheritance of Levenet, the Chancellor of Henry I., and that it descended from him to Mathew, his son, and so on from heir to heir, until it was appropriated to Lichfield, it would seem that this Elias was certainly the ancestor of the Longsdons. It would appear that the church was granted to Lichfield in 3 R. I.; but this was probably subject to the life interest of Thomas, the Clerk, who was most probably, as Mr. Sleigh asserts, and the Author has fully shown, the son of Elias the Dean, "but when it was actually appropriated to the Bishopric the jury were unaware."

There can be no doubt that down to this period the Deans or Parsons of Bakewell were not in priests' orders, although the record of 3 John, by calling the wife of Elias (*Amica sua*), apparently casts a slur upon her as the wife of a priest, and the heavy fine exacted for retaining her with all the privileges of the Deanery, show that the King's conscience was deeply touched at this apparent breach of ecclesiastical discipline, so that it could not be quieted without a very heavy fine and poor Elias was compelled no doubt to submit to it whether he was in fault or not. Looking at the finding of the jury in 3 Edward I., it is clear that the family might lawfully marry and beget heirs from Henry I. to the time of their spoliation by John, since these heirs are fully recognized, and this makes it quite clear that they were of the class of Deans, who were, in fact, laymen. Deans were divided into two clear divisions, having regard to their employment, that of deans of spiritual promotion and deans of lay promotions, and the distinction between them was a debatable question. Deans of Royal Chapels and Deans of Chapter were not certainly of the spiritual order, though Deans of Peculiars who had cure of souls, of course, were. But some Deans of Peculiars had not cure of souls and therefore frequently were persons not in holy orders; of this class, even at this day, the Dean of the Arches may be a layman and the Archbishops of Canterbury have recently appointed two laymen in

succession—ex Judges of the High Court—who were incapacitated from continuing their proper work. The present holder of the office was compelled to resign in the prime of life owing to absolute and incurable deafness, which, no doubt, was a high recommendation for a Judge of the Arches Court, who, if he were not stone deaf, would be compelled to hear arguments on doctrinal points. The last Dean was an agnostic, he held (of course) that the Cross of the Redeemer was an object of superstition.

The Deans of Bakewell must have been laymen or King Richard could not have employed Elias (if he were a priest) in the lay work of Architect or supervisor in repairing the King's castles, and Thomas, the Clerk or Parson, Dean of Bakewell, must also have been a layman for he could not otherwise have held the office of a Forester of fee, nor, indeed, could Mathew, his son (see page 235, Vol. III.), have been fined for not delivering his father's rolls—this shows that he was not a bastard, but was born in wedlock, or he could not have inherited the forestership.

The Author must also plead guilty to having made a careless translation of the word he read at the time as *Plevnia* and translated it doubtfully as *Bail*. Looking at the context it would seem that the word must have been an abbreviation of *Plebania*, or mother church, which has one or more subordinate chapels. *Plebanus* was a rural dean. Wharton (*Angl. Sacra*, p. 1, 569) states that *Plebanus* was not the usual title of every rural dean; but only of such a parish priest in a large mother church exempt from the jurisdiction of the ordinary, who had the authority of a rural dean committed to him by the archbishop to whom the church was immediately subject.

It is clear that in early times Bakewell was immediately subject to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was probably the mother church of more than ten churches and chapels in the Peak. Hope and Tideswell were given by King John, it is said, in the fifth year of his reign, with Bakewell and its chapelries, to Lichfield, and certainly Hope was visited by the Archbishop in 1635, for in that year he excommunicated a number of Catholics (nearly 60), amongst whom were nine of the Eyre family, with many other well-known Catholic families, Brailsford, Bagshaw, Brittlebank, Balgy, Daniel, Mellor, Furnis, Heathcote, Longdon, Morton, and others. It was a terribly popish district. The poor vicar of Hope, in 1602, was himself excommunicated and buried like a dog; the poor recusants were

buried in the night "without service or bell;" no wonder the people grew so wicked that it was considered at the time that the terrible plague at Eyam fell upon them as a Divine judgment on account of their wickedness. The natives of the Peak were amongst the staunchest Catholics, and they die hard; but it was stamped out at last, generally, except at Hathersage, Tideswell, and a few other places, which still retain, even to this day, a sprinkling of genuine Catholics, who refuse to believe in self-ordained apostles of the Peak. The discovery of these notes enables the pedigree of the Wrights, of Longstone (page 323, Sec. VII.), to be greatly amended, and the gap between them and the Levenets may now be nearly, if not quite, filled up by the interposition of Elias, the father of Elias, rector of Bakewell, Hy. II., and Matthew fil Levenet, of Henry I., whose posterity succeeded from heir to heir till the 3rd of Richard I., which is clearly proved by the Inquisition of 3 E. I., and this gives courage to assert that Thomas, the Clerk, Parson of Bakewell, must have been a younger son of Helias, the Cleric of H. II., so that a line (those who are cautious may make it a dotted line) may be drawn on page 323 between these sons of Helias and Wm. fil Elias, who, with Basilia, his wife, confirmed the grant of Waltheof fil Swanus de Mornesale to Rufford Abbey, which Thomas, the Clerk attested, proving that he was a younger member of the family, for he held land of Elias and William, his son.

To them may be added another brother, Richard (see pages 348-9), who must surely be Richard fil Levened, whom Mr. John Sleigh, in his *Reliquary* pedigree, identifies as the brother of Thomas, the Clerk (see page (308). No doubt Mr. Sleigh had very good grounds for so positively asserting that they were brethren, although, unfortunately, he has not preserved a note of them. He had exceptional opportunities of consulting the Longsdon records at that period, he having purchased his estate (Thornbridge Hall) from that family; and possibly he may have perused and perhaps retained the very Charter which proves this interesting point, though he was unable to give the strict proofs, and unfortunately the present Longsdon family only possess a portion of their ancient muniments.

Another perhaps adventurous shot may be made and possibly the connection between the Avenils of Haddon and the Wrights of Great Longston may now be discovered. The identity of Richard fil Levened and Richard de Pec may now be fairly insisted upon, and

this would make the wife or Amica of Helias, the Dean, the sister of Wm. Avenil, of Haddon, for so Richard de Pec is clearly identified by himself then holding land under him (p. 341) at Chesterfield (?).

The history of the Avenils of Haddon is absolutely unknown and it requires a good deal of courage to attempt to explain it. We know positively that in the early years of Rich. I., certainly before the 6th of this King (for the Pipe Rolls show that Vernon and Bassett then held Bassilow between them) that this Manor was Avenil property. In 2 H. II., Gervase Avenil paid 20 marcs for having it; he must therefore have been the ancestor of William fil Wm. Avenil, of Haddon, whose daughters divided it between them.

Now Gervase and Robert Avenil, from the 19 to the 23 Hy. II., held the offices of King's Surveyors for the Peveril inheritance (Notts and the Peak), an office which Elias, the clerk, who had married a sister of William Avenil, held at any time after that date to 6 Rich. I.

The estates of Gervase and Robert Avenil (possibly father and son), were in the King's hands, 25 Hy. II. and 6 R. I. Wm. fil Elias, the Clerk, had a grant of rents in Alport from Wm. Avenil, son of Robert, presumably Robt., the King's architect, in 17 H. II.

5 John, this William paid for a writ (mort ancestor) against Simon Bassett and Rich. Vernon concerning Bassilow (Gervase's fee) in 3 and 8 Hy. III., William was assessed, in scutages; this may have been for Sutton, of which Ralf Avenil gave the church to Trentham.

In 7 Rich. I., there was peace between the Bassetts and Vernons and Robert Avenil, and then a Gilbert Avenil appears to puzzle us. He attested Rich. de Vernon's Charter concerning Richd. Pec's lands in Chesterfield.

The Avenils appear to have lost all estates in Derbyshire, but in 17 H. III., Walter Avenil, son of William, was called to warranty Sutton, then in other hands, but they still remained in Devonshire and in Gloucestershire. Ralf Avenil was there in 2 Jo., holding Bicknor, and William, his son, was there in 20-37 Hy. III. As Lord William Brewer had despoiled the family at Haddon in favour of one of the Vernons of the family of the Earls of Devon (his wife's relations), he would seem to have aided them to settle in Devonshire, and we must look at the pedigree of the Earls of Devon to understand their position.

Baldwin, Earl of Devon, was a contemporary with King William

I, and he married a first cousin of that King. His connection with the Peverils, the Lords of the Avenils of Derbyshire, was of so early a date that it seems to dispose of the story that William Peveril, of Nottingham, was the King's son, for to his own Charter to Barnstaple, Rich. Peveril, Hugh and Ralf, his brothers, were witnesses. Rich., Earl of Devon (his son) founded Monteburg before Wm. I. was married. His wife Adeliza, daughter of Wm. Peveril, gave Overlays to that foundation. His sister Emma married William Avenil, their son Ralf, c. 1080, gave the Church of Sutton to Trentham, which Robert, grandfather of Walter, of 17 H. III., clearly possessed, so the connection of Avenil of Haddon, who aided Wm. Peveril in his foundation of Lenton with the Avenils of H. III. is fairly proven.

A Rich. Avenil, about the time of the Conquest, granted the Mill of Otelin to Monteburg; he had sons, Wm. and Richard, and probably may be interposed in the pedigree; Gervase and Robert were probably his sons or grandsons.

Seeing that Elias, the Clerk, succeeded them in their office as the King's architects for the Peveril inheritance, that his son was directly benefitted by the family of Avenil, that Wm. Avenil, of Haddon, calls Rich. de Pec his nephew (sister's son or grandson), it would seem that the wife, called by King John the Amica of Elias, the Clerk or Dean, is fairly discovered as an Avenil of Haddon.

The Avenil history will be more properly given under Haddon, but so much is given in this place that it may be as well to add that the Cartulary of Lenton (p. 293, Vol. I.) gives William Avenil and Robert Avenil, of Haddon, who in 1169 made donations to it; Randolf Avenil was also a donor. 1166, William Avenil was in Bedfordshire, and in the time of King John they became Barons of the Marchers of Scotland, where they held Eskdale, and were so lost in England.

Robert Avenil, of the time of William the Lion (1165-1214), had a wife, named Sibel, and a son, named Gervase, who by Sibilla, his wife, had four sons, Gervase, Roger (1235), Robert, and William the Parson. Laurence Avenil was of Eskdale, 1250-60. In 1221, Robt. Avenil, the first-named, gave his Wood of Polworth to Kelso.

It seems tolerably certain that Gervase Avenil, who in 2 H. II. paid 20 marcs for having Haddon, must have been of the Lord Marcher's family, possibly by the father of Robert the First. It will

be very interesting for Derbyshire history to work this out properly.

Mr. Jeayes, in his Derbyshire Charters, has raised many questions which conflict with the Author's views, as well as with those of others, chiefly through his very rash mode of dating charters conjecturally. Mr. Jeayes seems to think that he can do this with impunity, but when he has had more experience he will find that he will bring a hornet's nest about him, if he upsets all preconceived notions merely by his own suggestion. If a new and conjectural date should be given, it should always be accompanied by some sort of suggested evidence. It is a most dangerous thing to jump at a date merely from a transient glance at the similarity of handwriting. Some scribes evidently lived to be very old in service without materially altering their handwriting, in fact, they prided themselves upon maintaining the ancient standard, and their descendants and successors copied them so accurately that it is often difficult to detect a difference for even a hundred years.

This is a very serious question for those who have already committed themselves to particular dates, and one very serious conflict between the Author's views and those of Mr. Jeayes arises in the Heathcote pedigree. The Author took the greatest pains when writing on the Heathcotes of Chesterfield to ascertain the earliest date at which they are recorded at that place. In the time of Edward III. and Richard II. they were clearly located in Tideswell, the parish now under consideration, and the Author will be very thankful for any information which may be sent to him before he finally concludes this chapter.

In Vol. IV., p. 350, is given all that was then known, which was that Richard Heathcote, the first name at Chesterfield, was there in the reign of Henry VII.; his Will, dated Henry VIII., was amongst the Foljambe MSS. at Osberton, in which he left money for yearly obits. in Buxtonford Chapel, in the Peak, and in the Townhouse Chapel, in the Peak, for the souls of himself and of Isabella and Alice, his wives, and for Thomas Heathcote and Rose, his parents—tolerable proof that he came from the Peak, where the name was then well known. Mr. Jeayes has produced a Charter of 4 H. V. (from Mr. Foljambe's Charters), being a grant from William Fox, of Hasland, to Richard Heathcote of a cottage at Chesterfield. From the Haddon Hall Charters it appears that William Fox was of Hasland in 1 R. III. and of Chesterfield in

21 E. IV., so that both Fox and Heathcote are probably ante dated by some hundred years.

Mr. Foljambe, at the Author's suggestion, sent his Charters to be arranged, etc., to a gentleman at the British Museum, and after their return to Osberton Mr. Foljambe again gave the Author access to them, chiefly in order to see this original Will of Richard Heathcote, in order to identify the places mentioned in it; but after a most careful search he could not find it, nor did he discover the deed of 4 H. V. This is so important that the Author applied to Mr. Jeayes to give him confirmation from his own notes; but, unfortunately, he had not examined them himself, nor could he give any information about the missing will, he having copied his work from the notes of the previous transcribers, who had made no note of it. Many families derive from the Heathcotes of Chesterfield, so that it is to be hoped that further information may be obtained.

Again, it appears from Mr. Jeayes' notes that his Lichfield work is taken from Dr. Cox's account, which is eminently unsatisfactory, for Dr. Cox had not, at that time, properly taught himself to read records, and his early work is full of errors, which will appear in Mr. Jeayes' book. The Author unhappily, though with the kindest intention, gave Dr. Cox offence by drawing his attention to his shortcomings, and for advising him to have his work supervised by a specialist. Many great authors who write authoritatively upon records, as for instance the late E. A. Freeman and Professor Stubbs, have to depend upon the despised transcriber. Mr. Vincent exposed E. A. Freeman's shortcomings in this respect. There is really no great merit in transcribing properly, it is very easy to learn the art; any schoolboy or young lady can manage it; but of course it is more satisfactory to be independent of transcribers.

Mr. Jeayes has given several charters of great interest to this enquiry. One, No. 226 of the Author's collection of Okeover Charters, which unfortunately General Wrottesley has omitted in his account of them, and which appears to the Author to be of the greatest importance. Mr. Jeayes gives it as of the late 14th century (it is 404 in his book). It appears to the Author to be two or three centuries earlier, and more likely of the reign of King John. This Charter is of the greatest importance to the Levenet pedigree, and must not be hustled out of sight; it is, perhaps, the first instance of the user by the Wrights of Longstone, of the name of Faber,

The Author's note from the Okeover original is, Wm. de Grendon to Robert Textor, grant of the toft which James Textor held in Campedene of the fee of Bradley. T., Levened Faber, Henry de Cruce, Wm. fil Luce, Nich (? Rich.) de Derby, Roger, his son, Robt. and Henry fil Levened, Wm. Spendlow. Wm. de Grendon was lord of Bradley, and died *s. p.* in the time of King John, probably early in his reign.

2 John, Wm. de Grendon is described as a cleric, who viewed the Castle of Hareston on the part of the king—another instance, probably, of a king's clerk who was not a priest. Wm. Ferrars, Earl of Derby, gave land to him. Test, Wm. de Ridware, with Ralf de Munjoy, who 5 John held land of the Earl in Hundswood, Wirksworth.

Nicolas fil Levened, possibly Nicolas, the Clerk of Bakewell, attested a Winster Charter of Wm., the Earl, to Wm. de Munjoye, Ralf's ancestor. Curiously Leving (probably Levenet, the Chancellor) held Winster at Domesday. There is a fine of 26 H. III., and a suit in the R.C.R. of that date which exactly identifies the parties and approximately dates the Okeover Charter, though it must be thirty years earlier.

There are several Charters in the Kniveton Leiger which bear upon the question. No. 236, at fo. 40, which is probably of the same date as the Okeover Charter, since three of the chief witnesses are identical, and probably several others. A number of these Charters are given in Chap. XXIV., Vol. IV.

Wm. de Grendon was succeeded by his brother, Serlo, who died *s. p.* in 4 H. III., when Johanna, their sister, who had married a Stretton, succeeded to the Bradley inheritance, and from whom the Knivetons purchased Bradley.

It will be seen that this Charter, which Mr. Jeayes dates as late 14th century, was probably early in John, and this must, on the authority of these Charters, be taken as the date of the assumption by the Wrights of Longstone of the name of Faber, or Wright, in lieu of Levenet, their proper patronymic. Referring to their pedigree, given at pp. 124, 5, Section VIII., it will be seen that Elias, son of Wm. fil Wm. fil Elias, the Dean, attested a Charter of Henry de Monyash in 1293. Mr. Jeayes gives several Charters of this family which tend to elucidate the pedigree, especially some in the British Museum unknown to the Author. There is a

Charter in the Harleian Collection, No. 83,932, which Mr. Jeayes considers late 13th century, of John de Lyonis to Henry fil Simon fil Robert de Moneash (no doubt the grantor of 1293) of land in Monyash. T., Robert le Wine, of Haddon, Mathew le Sergeant, of Haddon, and Ralf Coteril. This Robert, the grandfather, may, from the dates, be Robert le Levened, brother of Thomas, the Clerk, whose history is lost.

By a Charter of 19 E. III., Henry fil Henry de Eyam granted to Nicolas fil Ralf de Congusden and John fil Henry de Monyas land in Flagg and Chelmorden.

16 E. III., Ralf fil Ralf, of Willey, granted to John fil Henry fil Simon and Matilde, his wife, land in Dore.

Wm. de Skipwith and Margaret, his wife, confirmed for life of Sir Simon de Welwyn and Robert, his brother. Nothing is known to the Author of the connection with these persons.

29 E. III., Philip de Bassiliew, Chaplain, granted to John fil Henry de Monyash and Matilde, his wife, two messuages in Eyam, held by Richard de Leyham, with remainder to Henry fil John fil Henry, born of Mariota, with remainder to Nicolas Meverill.

This connection between the Levenets and the Meverills at this date is curious, and still more curious is the fact that Nicolas, the Clerk, of Bakewell, who was of the Longstone family, son of Adam fil Peter fil Elias, bore the Griffin coat; they were certainly tenants and probably local agents of the Griffins. Robt., brother of Thomas, the Clerk, had a grant of a quarter of Middleton from Wm. fil Robt. Avenil. Wm. fil Wm. fil Elias, his nephew, had also a grant at Alport from Wm. Avenil, and amongst others he had a son, Henry, who had a grant in Monyas from Adam fil Peter. There can be little doubt that to this family belong the several members of Monyas, called Wm. Elys, Wm. fil Elias fil Wm., and Adam le Wright, presently mentioned, and that nearly all these persons migrated to Eyam. It is to be hoped that a proper study of the Eyam Charters given by Mr. Jeayes will supply the unfortunate gaps which appear in Mr. Bowles' Charters.

The following Charters are again a curious revival of the ancient relationships between the Wrights and Levenets. The Ellises, of course, are the latter family assuming the paternal name of Elias, so common with them. Wm. Elys was no doubt a descendant of Elias fil Wm., of 1293.

12 August, 45 E. III., Wm. Elys, of Monyash, Henry atte More, of the same, Wm. Elys granted to Amicia, the wife of Adam le Wryth, of Monyash, land in the same vill.

T., Wm. fil Roger fil Dyot, of Monyash, Robert Matthew, John Smylter. (Harleian Charters, 112, H. 26.)

6th June, 48 E. III., Adam le Writh, of Monyash, to Sir Henry de Fairfield and Hugh fil Henry fil John Cap., of lands, etc., in Monyash.

T., Wm. Ellis, Henry del More, Henry Bagnel.

The name Elias here becomes modernised in the form still used in America, from which the Americans can fairly hope to prove their descent and connection with the great pre-Norman family of Prince Levenet.

An important work is forthcoming, edited by Mr. Daniel Brittain Ely, of New York, which, if properly connected with the families of the old country, cannot fail to be of great interest to English genealogists. Unfortunately small attempt is made by American genealogists to supplement their works by reference to their English ancestry; hence they are robbed of their chief interest to English readers. Of course we know that some of the best blood in England is at the present time largely represented in the States by men who descend from the adventurers of the reign of Elizabeth and James, and later by those who call themselves the Pilgrim Fathers, and who acted as if they were the salt of the earth. They were no doubt responsible for the chaotic views on religion which produced so much infidelity in the States, and also, still more unhappily, so much cant and hypocrisy. Irreligion is more easily replaced by the true faith than the absurd views of conceited and prejudiced people who take a pride in their own inventions and fancy their ever-shifting views are come to stay, especially when rehashed as "New Religion." They have shouted so loudly that the world supposes that they are the only people in America; but amongst the less obtrusive there are many who took over with them the more conservative and better-grounded beliefs which prevailed in their ancient homesteads. Unfortunately whilst some of our best families are represented so, as convicts and slaves, were some of our worst, and it should be the aim of American genealogists to prove the true origin of their families, and to separate the wheat from the chaff—a matter quite as interesting to Englishmen as to themselves.

PEDIGREE OF STAFFORD OF TYDES WELL.

Hervy Bagot, of Bramhall and Billington, co. Stafford, and Haconby, co. Linc., in direct descent from Bagod, who held those places at Domesday of the Toesnis, Barons of Stafford, living at the date of the Red Book. † a. 4 John.

Milicent, daughter and coheir of Robt. Baron Stafford, sister of the last Baron, living 4 H. III., a widow.

a

Hervy Bagot, 4 Jo.—12 H. III., took the name of Stafford, gave his ancestral estates to his bro., Wm. Bagot. 12 H. III., Lord of Bromshelf.

Petronilla, d. of Wm. Earl Ferrars.

(3) Ralf of Colton, † 4 E. 2.

(5) Robert. (6) John,

(4) Rich., m. Agnes, 5 John, bail for Hervy Bagot, 7 John, bail for Oliver Meverill.

bail for William Salt. † a. 1 Jo. (1) Alice.

Robert Baron Stafford, 11 E. I., fined with the Abbot of Oseney for Wrottesly's land.

Elie, d. and heir of Rbt. Corbet.

Nicolas Baron Stafford, 8 E. I., sued Roger de Puleston, 11 E. I., sued the Abbot of Osney.

Margaret, d. of Lord Bardolf.

Edmund, 9 E. I.

Roes, ux. Rich. de Shatton.

Edward Baron, proved his age 22-7 E. I. † 2 E. II.

Margaret, d. and heir of Ralf, Lord Bassett of Drayton.

Ralf, 1st Earl of Stafford. C....., fil John de Chartley.

Margaret, d. of Thomas Audley, Earl of Glo'ster.

Sir Rich. Stafford, 2nd son, 22 E. III., a Judge. Inq. p.m. 4 R. II.

Isabella Vernon, 1st wife. = Matilde, of Thos. de Hampton, Wo. of Rd. Vernon, 2nd w.

Margaret, ux. James Stafford.

Hugo, 2nd Earl of Staff. Philippa, Joan, ux. d. of..... Gilbert de Beauchamp. Talbot.

(1) Richard, † s. p., r.v.p. = Isabella, d. of Richard Vernon, of Haddon.

(3) Sir Thos., dead a. 7 H. V. Catherine, d. and co-h. Alured Sulney.

Edmund, 3rd Earl of Staff., slain 1408. Ann, d. of Thos. de Woodstock, Duke of Glo'ster.

(2) Edmund, Bishop of Exeter, Ld. Chancellor of England. æt. 50, 4 R. II., † s. p., 7 H. V.

(1) Thos., heir of his uncle, the Bishop, æt. 30, 7 H. V., † s. p.

Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, K.G., slain 1460, had grant of the Manors of the Morteyns of Eyam from Thos. de Furnival (?)

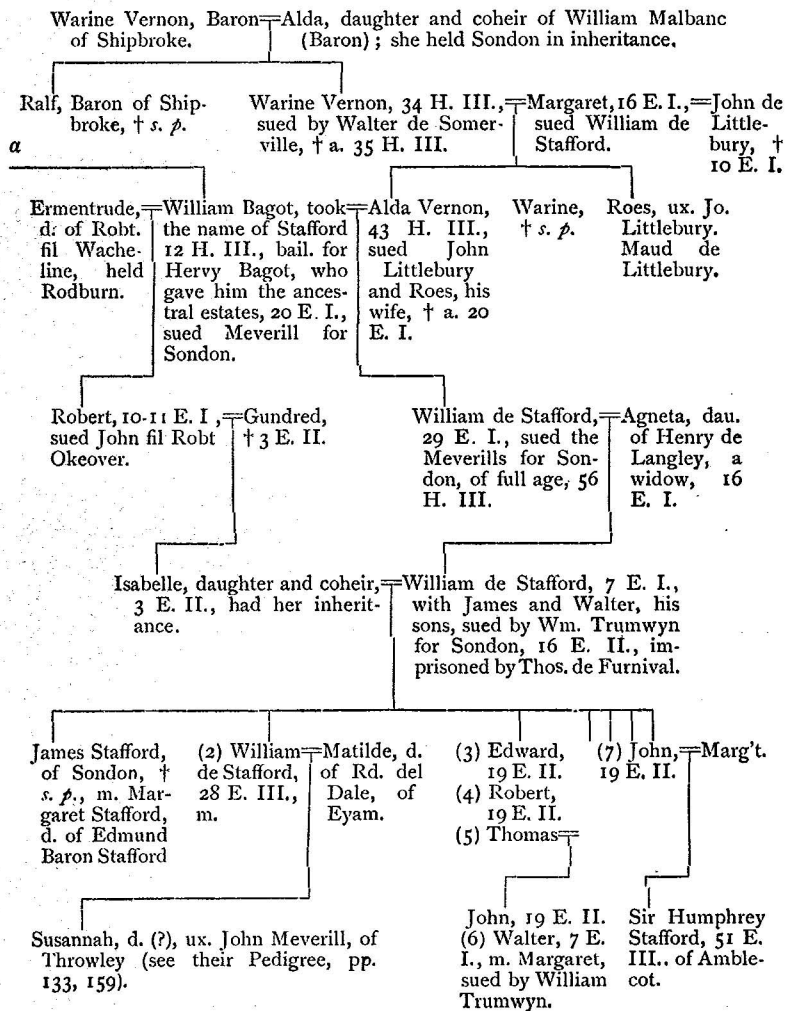
(2) John, Arch-bp. of Canterbury. (3) Ralf. (4) Thomas. (5) William.

(4) Sir Nicolas, of Tideswell, m. Eliz., d. and soleh. of Thos Meverill, of Throwley; he died s. p. 3 H. IV., she 3 H. V.

(2) Richard, 6 H. V., had grant from Rich. fil Rich. Vernon, (?) Lord of Helowe.

Henry, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, beheaded 1483.

Catherine, had Moneyash and Chilmorton in dower. = John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, † 1473.



CHAPTER VII.

THE STAFFORDS OF TIDESWELL.

The history of this family is also of great importance to Derbyshire, for they are another family coming down from pre-Norman times, and their influence extended throughout the country. Of course, the descendants of the Toesnis intermarried and settled with them, for long before the Conquest both were seated here in exile from Normandy, but their influence has hardly been suspected, nor will it be fully understood until a more enlightened spirit prevails, and the history of the county is more deeply investigated. The Tideswell family undoubtedly descend from the great family, the Earls of Stafford. Several families in Derbyshire of this name are indeed known by occasional references in charters, and after the custom of English genealogists, it has been quietly assumed that they all derive from the same ancestor. Unfortunately, the Staffords of Tideswell have been confounded with a yeoman family of the name at Eyam of no importance and only known by a few very early charters of the Morteyn family of that place, and a remarkable collection of depositions taken in an ecclesiastical suit in the reign of King Edward II., which has been erroneously published in the *Derbyshire Archaeologia* as a deed. But notwithstanding the close proximity of Tideswell and Eyam, and to the fact that the junior members of the Tideswell family were settled in both places, there is apparently no foundation for the assumption that they were even of kin with the early Eyam family.

The name of Stafford is the name of a place, and not of a family, and was lightly adopted in early times by several distinct families, as we have seen it was adopted at the time of Domesday by some of the Albinis, as well as by the Toesnis, and it may well be that

the ancient family of Stafford of Botham Hall, in Glossop, who are perhaps the most ancient local family of the name, have no connection with either of them, although probabilities point to a connection with the baronial family.

This Glossop family appeared at Dugdale's Visitation, in 1662, recorded eight degrees of descent from one Judde Stafford, probably a fictitious Christian name, and were allowed arms, "Ermine a chevron gu. between three martlets sable, with a mullet for difference." The coheirs of the last family of the Staffords of Eyam, whose origin is utterly unknown, assumed, apparently without any authority, somewhat similar arms, "Ar. a chevron gules, between three martlets," but they did not appear before the heralds, and these arms are not recorded in the College of Arms. Both coats were probably derived from the baronial family, but whether by any right is not known. The coheirs of the Eyam family assumed them, and one coheir actually carved them in stone outside his mansion, without any known authority, for when the Savages appeared before the Heralds in 1611, they then desired to quarter the Stafford coat, but they could not prove their pedigree beyond Humphrey Stafford, of the second year of Ed. VI., and in the visitation the last member of one Eyam family is given under the date of Ed. IV., whose two sons are mentioned, and the illegitimate issue of one only is given, showing that there was no authority for the claim to descend from them, most probably they were of the bastard issue.

There is a portrait of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, still at Hassop Hall, the seat of another coheir, showing again their desire to claim a relationship. Lysons gives but a poor account of both of these families. He mixes up the late with the early Eyam family, without giving any proof, and under Glossop he only mentions that Mellor Hall came to them by the marriage of a coheir of that family in the 14th century, and was sold, with Botham Hall, to James Chetham, by Thomas Stafford and Tristram, his son, in 1704. In the visitation of 1611, Richard Ratcliff, of Mellor, is given as the husband of Emota, daughter and coheir of Roger de Melner, Forester of Fee of Langendale, whilst her sister, Margaret, is said to have married Winken de Stafford, and her sister, Helen, Jenkin de Aynsworth. This marriage must have taken place at a very early date, for in a Forest Roll of 36 H. III., it is recorded that Roger de Stafford bought the marriage of Isabella, coheir of Simon de Melner

(about 7-11 H. III.). This Simon was a Forester of Fee of Langendale, and in 11 Ed. II. was succeeded by Roger de Milner, probably his son, who was also returned as a Forester of Langendale. Roger, of the Botham Hall family, Mr. Bowles (without any authority) "presumes" was identical with the Eyam Roger, of the Yeoman family. It may be noted that a William de Stafford was on the jury in 11 E. II. Hervy Bagot had six sons, so that more probably the Botham Hall family descended from one of them, but their history is unknown.

It is not known when the last Humphrey Stafford, of Eyam, died, probably in 2 Edward VI., or in the reign of Queen Mary. He did not hold anything in chief. His widow died in the year 1560, when his property was apparently divided between four coheirs, Savage, Eyre, Bradshaw, and Morewood, and to a descendant of the third, through a female, Mr. Charles Eyre Bradshaw Bowles, of Abney, we are indebted for several contributions to the *Archæologia* relating to this family. The Author has been favoured quite recently with an article from his pen, proposed to be issued in it, on the Staffords of Eyam, but it is with great regret that he feels compelled to state that he cannot adopt it as a satisfactory solution of the difficulty, for it is built upon a series of palpable assumptions. In order to clear the way for his own theories, he is compelled to state this clearly.

Mr. Bowles starts with asserting that "several genealogists have attempted to construct a pedigree of the family and have evidently found it an extremely difficult task. What has been written in the *Reliquary* and other such publications has, for the most part, been derived from Woolly's MSS., which are erroneous in many important points."

No one can dispute this, for it is unfortunately true, and the reason is that Woolly's collection by themselves, although fairly accurate as transcripts, are of small value, inasmuch as they chiefly consist of disjointed charters which can only be understood and utilised by one who can fully appreciate their meaning and who is able to read them by the light of feudal records. The old notion that pedigrees could be constructed by charters, wills, and parish registers, with the aid of guess work, has been the cause of many ludicrous compilations, chiefly because without a system of chronological references, deeds become displaced, and the result is, what is generally termed, a faked-up pedigree. Charters are immensely valuable in illustration, but they

are very dangerous things to employ as guides in fabrication, and frequently lead the pedigree maker astray. In the case of the early Staffords of Eyam, there are no records to assist the charters, except the remarkable depositions in the suit of 1308, which was brought to annul the marriage of a Richard Stafford on the ground of affinity. From the evidence adduced, a clear pedigree of four generations can be made, going back to the period of Henry III. or earlier. This constituted a good pedigree of the family for that period, and there are a few contemporary charters which confirm and illustrate it. But unfortunately for the genealogist, this family were not of sufficient importance to be subsidised, being only yeomen or farmers under the Morteyns, and after this date there is nothing to prove a continuation of their pedigree.

Mr. Bowles' suggestion is a mere guess. It is however of some value in proof that they are a distinct family from that of Botham Hall and the Baronial family, for their period is too early to be derived from them; and these families were called Bagot at this date. For many reasons Mr. Bowles' continuation from the date of the ecclesiastical suit cannot be accepted; it is full of assumptions. He has affiliated to that family one John de Stafford, who married an heiress of the Lynfords some fifty years afterwards, without a shadow of intervening proof, and, as it will be shown presently, in the teeth of all probability. Who this Lyndford John Stafford was, is indeed a question of great difficulty, and it must be left to the chapter on Eyam properly to work it out. But, in the course of investigating the pedigree of the Tideswell family, many strong points are brought out which also tend to show their true origin.

The family of Hervy Bagot after his marriage with the Stafford heiress came directly into contact with the Meverills through the second marriage of William, the second brother of the Baron, with Alda, daughter and coheir of Warine Vernon, a scion of the Baronial house of Shipbroke, who were so named from their family and not from any locality; this is a very early instance of a family surname. Derbyshire historians have been pleased to confound them with a branch of the House of Devon, who took that name territorially, one of whom obtained Haddon by marriage with an Avenil—quite a different family; the Shipbroke Vernons were so called long previously, and before the time of Domesday; how they obtained their name is unknown.

The Bagods have a great and undoubted pedigree dating from Domesday, when they held Bramshall and three other vills. in Staffordshire, and Haconby in Lincolnshire (for three fees), of Robert Toesni, or de Stafford. There is no trace of them in the Lincolnshire Survey, and it is uncertain whether they were British or Norman, probably they were early Norse. At the time of the Red Book, or perhaps a little later, Hervy Bagod obtained the Barony of Stafford by marriage with the heiress, and he enfeoffed his second brother William with Bramshall, Bellington and Haccunby—the ancient territory of his family. In the Hundred Rolls he was still called Bagot, though it is quite clear that William Bagot had assumed his brother's Baronial name at a much earlier date; seeing their connection with the Toesnis it is tempting to identify them with the Bigods, their relations, but this is a mere guess.

The mother of Alda Vernon was the daughter and coheir of Wm. Malbanc, and through this marriage her husband obtained an interest in Sondon, which brought him into immediate connection with the Meverills, who, as we have seen, were probably derived from the same family. It is through the actions of Alda Vernon in her widowhood that we obtain something of their history. For these we are greatly indebted to General Wrottesley's transcripts, and also to the document No. 71 of the Kniveton Cartulary, dated 29 E. I.; those records disclose that the Lady Alda de Stafford (the mother of the then plaintiff) was only one of three coheirs, and the action of Sir William Stafford was summarily disposed of on account of the non-joinder of these parties, through some of whom the Meverills claimed, some of them, being clearly Meverills. The descendant in the third generation of Sir William Stafford, Johanna, daughter of another William Stafford, married John Meverill, the ultimate heir of that family, who was no doubt her distant cousin. Sir William Stafford (second of the name) made a great match with a coheir of the Ferrars family, who brought him a share of Rodbourne and Muggington and other Derbyshire manors.

The family also intermarried with the Corbets, Bardolfs and Bassets, all connected with Derbyshire.

Sir Richard Stafford, second son of Lord Edmund and brother of the first Earl of this house (who died in 4 R. II.), obtained a grant, in 1381, of the lands, and heir of Sir Hugh Wrottesley, K.G., which had been given to him by the Abbot of Evesham. Sir Richard

Stafford married Matilde, daughter of William Campville, of Clifton, the widow of Sir Richard Vernon, of Haddon, whilst his eldest son, who continued the connection with Derbyshire, married the daughter of Sir Richard Vernon, of Haddon, but he left no issue. The second son was the famous Edmund, Bishop of Exeter, Lord Chancellor of England (already referred to). The fourth son was Sir Nicolas Stafford, of Tideswell, who married apparently twice, once the widow of Robert Foljambe and secondly Elizabeth Meverill, the heiress of Throwley and Tideswell, neither of whom left issue; but the third brother, Thomas, married a daughter of Alured de Sulney (whose sister married Robert de Longford); he left two sons, Thomas, the eldest, who in 7 H. V. was found heir of the Lord Chancellor and he was then 30 years old, and Richard, who was probably Lord of Helowe, and who also held land in Eyam, and there was also a Robert, who was apparently of the Lynford family, but who was connected with them; this Robert apparently ended in a female who married an Eyre—accounting for their interest in this family. Mr. Bowles has annexed both of them (with John of Lyndford) as descendants of the yeoman family of Eyam, but he gives no sort of evidence in support of his theories or whether they left issue, and this cannot be accepted as satisfactory. A glance at the Bagot-Stafford pedigree will show the extreme danger of appropriating any of these men as descendants of the Eyam yeomen. It will be seen how closely the Baronial family and the Staffords of Lincolnshire intermarried and how both branches married into the Meverill and the Vernon families. James Stafford, of Sondon, married his cousin Margaret Stafford (aunt of Sir Nicolas of Tideswell), and like him died *s. p.* He had a brother William, of Sondon, who, 20 E. III., married Matilde, daughter and heir of Richard del Dale, of Eyam, whose daughter and heir (Susannah) married John Meverill and brought him (in marriage) a place called Riley, in Eyam. That place was certainly afterwards in the family of John Stafford, who married a Lincolnshire lady (Dionisia Lynford), and eventually apparently found its way into the hands of Humphrey Stafford, of Eyam, of 2 E. VI. It is very difficult to account for this, but it may be noted that during the Wars of the Roses great changes took place, which, owing to the destruction of public records, cannot now be proved or even explained. It was an age of violence and lawlessness, when each party, as it gained the upper hand, acted in defiance of right.

It is especially difficult to trace the dealings of the Furnivals, and in some irregular manner they obtained possession of the property of the Morteyns at Eyam. The Staffordshire Plea Rolls show that in some way they were intermixed with the Staffords of Sondon, at times being friendly at others hostile. They were followed by the Talbots who were also curiously intermixed with the property of other families, and who intruded much into Derbyshire properties. John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who died in 1473, was son-in-law of Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who perished ten years later. There does not appear to be any record remaining relative to his property, which, of course, was seized by the Crown, except those portions which were retained by the courtiers. Probably there is no period of our history so little known and so frequently stated erroneously as that of the Wars of the Roses. It is difficult to follow the dealings with property during the time of any of the Plantagenet Kings, John and his descendants, especially Henry III., Edward II. and Richard II. They had judges who were simply robbers, the Breweres, Verduns, de Burghs, Furnivals, and others, who were capable of any atrocity; still some sort of record remains of their misdeeds, but under the regime of the bastard issue of John of Gaunt there is nothing but confusion, and we can only obtain a light here and there from some isolated charter.

It is not clear how Thomas de Furnival grasped the property of the Morteyns of Eyam; but having attained it, the daughter of Roger Morteyn was given in marriage, apparently without the property, to his fellow Judge, Richard de Willoughby. No doubt it was by craft and cruelty that the Morteyns were disposed of, Willoughby probably being solaced for the loss of his wife's estate by being given that of other unfortunates, who fell under the hands of these judicial robbers.

Mr. Bowles has a Charter, dated 18 E. I. (see page 411, Vol. IV), by which Roger Morteyn gave certain land in Eyam to Roger Rus and Agnes, his wife, and in 15 E. II. (see page 413), Thomas Furnival, senior, Lord of Hallam, indemnified, as medius, these same people against payment of a rent of 20s. due to the King and to Roger, Lord of Eyam, in respect of the same land.

6 R. II. William Furnival died; his inquisition post mortem shows that he was Lord of Eyam; John de Stafford was a trustee for him. From Furnival it came to Neville and then to the Earl of

Shrewsbury, of course, illegally, for the Morteyns were and are, still numerous.

It is tempting to identify this John de Stafford, the trustee of Furnival, with the husband of Dionisia Lyndford, and then arises the question of his paternity. Mr. Bowles' assumption that he was the son of Roger Stafford (a cousin of the Roger whose father's marriage was in question in the suit of 1308), or of that Roger himself, cannot be accepted as satisfactory, because there is not a tittle of evidence that either of these Rogers had issue, but the Sondon pedigree shows that John was a common name in the Sondon family, and undoubtedly they possessed Ryley in Eyam, which so clearly was afterwards in the Lynford family, and there is no proof of the extinction of issue of Sir Richard Stafford and Isabella Vernon; on the contrary there is proof that Thomas, who was found heir of the Lord Chancellor in 7 H. V., had a brother Richard, and both of them may have left issue. And certainly, three years earlier, a Richard Stafford was steward of the Lord of Eyam, and, in that office, received rents of one Robert Stafford, for land in Eyam and Fooloo. This Robert, from a pedigree in Mr. Bowles' possession, of the Lynford family (see p. 415), appears to have been a grandson of Dionisia Lynford, and he had an uncle (her 2nd son) named Richard, who was possibly the Steward of Eyam. And no doubt that it was the pedigree of this family which was recorded in the visitation on the same page, which gave the pedigree of Humphrey Stafford of 2 Ed. VI., but which they were unable to connect with it.

In the miscellaneous collection of charters which have come into Mr. Bowles' possession, consisting of those of the families of Morteyn, the Archers of Hocklow and Highlow, the Abneys, Furnivals, Foljambes, Wildes, Bradshaws and Bagshaws, there are no doubt some that came from the Stewards of the Lords of Eyam, but probably the greater part of them came by purchases from the two last families, they cannot be held to establish the pedigree of the family from the early yeoman of Eyam any more than they can establish a relationship between them and the families of their lords, or of the Abneys, Archers and Furnivals. In the next section of this work will be given a great number of other charters which show that the Staffords purchased much property from them, but that will not establish a relationship in blood. There was an award made in 11 Henry VIII. between Humphrey Stafford, of Eyam (probably

Humphrey of 2 E. VI.), and one Ralph Martin, concerning the property called Riley, which might have established the relationship if it existed, and if shown to the Heralds accounts for their refusal to affiliate him to the Lynford family. It was evidently a claim by the Martin family to whom Riley had belonged. It does not appear whether Humphrey Stafford claimed by descent or by purchase, and in the absence of the first claim the latter title would be assumed. Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, was undoubtedly connected with the Talbots and Furnivals of Eyam. Humphrey was a name common to his family, and that of the Sondon branch of it. It was not known in the ancient or the modern Eyam families.

The Arms of the Stafford family give little help

Sir Robert Estafford, of the time of Henry III., bore argent a chevron gu. besantee.

In the Roll of Edward II., Sire Robert de Estafford bore the chevron with three bezants, and a Robert de Stafford, of same date, bore Or a chev. gu., over all a bendlet azure.

Mons. Nicol de Stafford, of the Roll of Richard II., argent a chevronel gules and a chief azure.

The Duke of Buckingham bore Or a chevron gules.

It does not appear how the Staffords of Glossop came to difference the arms with the martlets, or how the Savage family came to adopt them.

P.S.—The announcement of the death of the Earl of Liverpool, which occurred on the 23rd inst., after these chapters were printed, closes a literary friendship of about a quarter of a century, for the greater part of which his name has been on the title page of this work. Only a few months since, when commencing the Chapter on Tideswell, the Author, unaware of his severe illness, was compelled to trouble him, although he was then very ill, because he found, when preparing the Foljambe pedigree for the press, that the later portion of it was utterly erroneous, and could not possibly be published. He arrived at this conclusion mainly owing to the evidently faked-up pedigrees of the Staleys and Woodruffs.

The late Lord Liverpool was an ardent student of antiquities, and a great admirer of the Foljambe family, from which he fully believed that he was properly descended, the arms and name of which his family bore, although, in fact, their family name was Moore, and they only shared with the Twiggs, of Holme Hall, in the honour, it was supposed, of representing this ancient family.

Lord Liverpool and his family had been entirely misled, and, indeed, deceived, by the Heralds, and on the Author's discovery of the Peak Forest Rolls, he at once abandoned the theories of the Heralds, which were especially illustrated by Dr. Johnstone, who wrote much on this pedigree, and Lord Liverpool adopted without reserve the Author's views, which will be given in the next Section, and which derive the family from no imaginary Norman, but from one of the Foresters of Fee of William Peveril primus, a magnificent pedigree, probably of British or Welsh origin, which is established by undoubted evidence. The history of the family down to the time of Charles the First, to the death of the only Baronet of the family in 1640, is fairly accurate; but from that date to the time of the marriage of Mr. Moore it is utterly dishonest and untrue.

There was a great break in the pedigree at the death of Sir Francis Foljambe; he made wreck of his fortunes, and probably of his character, unless he alone was right, for he was at war with all his relations and stripped them as far as he could of all the family property. The old estates of Walton, and all those derived from Sir Godfrey Foljambe, of Hassop, as well as from the old family of Wormhill and Tideswell, were sold in his lifetime—probably lost in play; divers dowagers of the family possessed portions in dower which should have come down to his only daughter and heir, and he himself only possessed the Fitzwilliam estates, to which he had no real claim—everything he could deal with he wrested away from his daughter and his paternal relatives, and, through the aid of a lawyer named Woodruff, passed it to Francis Foljambe Blakeman, whose relationship is not given, by fine in tail, with remainder to a Peter Foljambe, also unknown. This was stated to be for natural love and affection, as no relationship was given—they were most probably his own bastards. It was found by Inquisition that Blakeman died without issue, and then Peter appeared and married Woodruff's daughter, and he, with the aid of Henry St. George (Norroy, 1677), recorded a very shameful pedigree, giving Peter a descent from the Fitzwilliams, not through the Foljambes, but through the Woodruffs, by means of one of the most wretchedly faked-up pedigrees that was ever recorded—false in every particular, and in fraud of the right of the Earl Brownlow, to whom the representation of the Fitzwilliams belongs. At the death of Peter, Norroy authorised the erection of a tomb at

Ecclesall, which still remains, with a shield bearing 22 Fitzwilliam quarterings. Mr. Scott Gatty has published the Register of this Church, and the heralds have permitted the issue of Peter to bear these arms from that time to the present day, and have encouraged the late Lord Liverpool to use them and to commemorate his descent from the family.

It has always been supposed that Sir William Dugdale was responsible for this assumption, but it can be clearly traced to Henry St. George, who must have known the truth. Dugdale's original visitation has never been found, and that which passes under his name is a work of no authority, although published by the Surtees Society (Vol. 36). The Editor, Mr. R. Davis, has very fairly given its true history. There is too much of St. George in it, and too little of Dugdale; though it is said that his handwriting can be found here and there upon it. This is unlikely, for the greater part of it is in the undoubted handwriting of one Gregory King, who, when 17, was his clerk. It does not appear whether Peter Foljambe even signed the pedigree; most probably not, but if he did it gives no weight to it, because the descents from the Fitzwilliams through the Woodruffs are simply frauds, and there is no authority whatever to connect this Peter with the Foljambe family: his line ended with females, one of whom married Mr. Moore, a merchant, of Hull, who assumed the name of Foljambe, and from whom the present family descends.

Lord Liverpool was the soul of honour, and the last man who would avail himself of the faked-up pedigree recorded, most dishonestly, by the successors of the great Dugdale, and, more especially, by several Heralds of the present day, and he gave the Author the fullest information on the subject, recently published by Lady Elizabeth Cust, in her great work, the Cust Records, in which she has very properly shown that Earl Brownlow (and not the Moores and the Twiggs) is the true representative of this great Derbyshire family. The story of this crime (for it is simply a fraud) is one of the most extraordinary in the history of the College of Arms, and full particulars will be duly recorded, for it is of importance to Derbyshire history. The Brownlow family are not alone in having been deprived of their honours by these Heralds, and the worst part of it is that Lord Liverpool had been induced by them to record their fables on the monuments of the family—no dishonour to him, for he was utterly incapable of untruth—R.I.P.

THE
FEUDAL HISTORY
OF THE
County of Derby

BY
JOHN PYM YEATMAN.

VOL. VI. SECTION X.



BIRMINGHAM :
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85, JOHN BRIGHT STREET.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FOLJAMBE FAMILY.

As indicated in the postscript of Chapter VII., page 206 of this volume, and in accordance with the truth, and with the determination expressed in the preface of Section I. page ix, it is absolutely necessary to strike out and rewrite much of this pedigree and to separate the true from the intruding members of it. The author then wrote: "The great object to be obtained in a work of this kind is the Truth. To give honour where honour is due, although in the process it may be necessary to strip those who wear them, of their borrowed plumes. This will be done in no carping or malicious spirit; but in one of justice to all. No one has a right to arrogate for himself, or his family, honours which do not rightly belong to them, and it is difficult to conceive how any honourable man—any right-minded person can object to this course." The Derbyshire Archæological Journal objects to this principle.

These words were published with the full approbation of the late Earl of Liverpool, whose name appeared upon the title page of all the sections published in his lifetime, and who thoroughly entered into the spirit and design of this work; little did either of us think that his pedigree was subject to such strictures. Lord Liverpool was an upright and honourable man, the last who would parade in his own person, honours which did not

[illegible]

Works by the same Author.—In the Press.

The 10th Section of the Feudal History of Derbyshire, completing the 5th Volume, is now in hand. Price (with the nine previous Sections) 5 guineas. The immediate delivery of the whole work hitherto issued cannot be guaranteed except to a limited number of subscribers, owing to the destruction of part of one Section through the negligence of the Good Templars, of Birmingham, and to the disappearance of 200 volumes of the 3rd Section through the misconduct of the Manager of the South Counties Press, of Lewes. They will be reprinted as required. The work will extend to at least 25 Sections, but by payment of the full amount of the subscription (10 guineas) in advance, no further payment will be required for the whole number. Apply to the Author, 15, Greenhill Road, Harlesden; or to Messrs. Moody Bros., Birmingham.

The 4th Edition of "The Gentle Shakspeare" is just issued by Messrs. Moody Bros., Birmingham, price One Guinea.

IN THE PRESS.—Memoirs of his own Times, 1847-1907, price One Guinea, by the Author, will shortly be published. This book has long been promised. It is not an attempt at self-glorification, or an apology for a long life of failure, but an honest endeavour to point out, from the experience of sixty years, the great evils which, through the greed of carpet-baggers, now afflict an honourable profession—converting it into a sordid craft, and it is hoped that it may suggest to the Lord Chancellor and to Parliament that the twopenny-halfpenny reforms now proposed will not meet the requirements of the public. By the destruction of the Order of Serjeants the independence and honour of the Bar was sacrificed in order to get rid of their control over the nominations of carpet-baggers for the Bench, with the result that the race of Judges has so deteriorated that some of them are, in intelligence and learning, inferior to the past race of ushers of the Court, and especially in their manners. One of the most incompetent of the Judges has just distinguished himself all round his circuit by calling the counsel fools, so that several of them threw up their briefs. These men, through their blunders, choke up the Courts of Appeal, and they are unfortunately aided in this by even their more learned brethren, for they lack the discipline and polish of the three great Courts in Banco, with the control of the Exchequer Chamber. The Courts of Appeal are worthless, for although they have contained many very able men, the system of presidency by seniority prevents the best men from being heard. The only way to save the Bench and the Bar is to revert to the old system and check the ways of the Chancellors. Respecting this work apply to the Author only.

THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMPT is in preparation, in two vols. quarto, price Three Guineas to subscribers, if paid in advance, or Five Guineas on publication. This work is, in fact, a 2nd Edition of the Author's History of the House of Arundel, published nearly twenty-five years since. That work was financially a great success, but the Author was deprived of his share of the profits by the publishers (Messrs. Mitchell & Hughes), who induced him to accept half the remaining stock, and then alleged that it had been burnt. Although still selling at two and a half guineas a copy, the Author was awarded about 20 pence a copy, whilst costs were given to the publishers—a loss to him of £500. At least a third part of this Edition has been recently collected, but the old work will be incorporated.

PROSPECTUS.

THE GENTLE SHAKSPERE

FOURTH EDITION (*Greatly Enlarged*),

BY

JOHN PYM YEATMAN,

Of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, formerly of Emanuel College, Cambridge, F.R.H.S. (England), Honorary Member of the Shakespeare Society of New York, etc.,

Author of *The History of the Common Law of Great Britain and Gaul*, *An Introduction to the Study of Early English History*, *The History of the House of Arundel*, *Introduction to the History of the House of Glanville*, *The Shemetic Origin of the Nations of Western Europe*, *The Records of Chesterfield*, *The History of the Borough of Chesterfield*, *A Treatise on the Law of Ancient Demesne*, *The Feudal History of the County of Derby* (9th vol. in the press), *The Domesday Book for the County of Derby*, *The Pipe Rolls for the Counties of Nottingham and Derby*, *The Lost Certificates of Knights' Fees*, *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, *Various Treatises on Legal Subjects*, *An Exposure of the Mismanagement of the Public Record Office*, *A Treatise on the Law of Registration of Titles*, and one on *Trade Marks*, *The Mayor's Court Act* (London), with *History of the City Privileges*. Editor of the *Legal Quarterly Review* and the *Judicature Quarterly Review*; Author of many Papers on the *Independence of the Bar*, on the *Destruction of the Order of Serjeants* and of the *Great Courts of De Banco*, and many Articles on *Welsh and English and American Genealogy*, etc., in the *Law Magazines*, the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, *Notes and Queries*, *The Derbyshire Archæologia*, etc., etc.

PRICE, ONE GUINEA.

A few copies of the Introductions to the 2nd, 3rd, and the present Edition, published separately, can be obtained, price Two Shillings each.

The Introduction to the 2nd Edition, 72 pages, contains facsimile of the Poet's Will, and an answer to the so-called critics, Dr. Furnival, Mr. Sidney Lee, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. Churton Collins, the *Saturday Review*, the *Academy*, the *Athenæum*, and the *Literary World*, with a strong protest against jobbery in legal appointments and the iniquities of the Judicature Acts which made such jobbery possible by destroying the Order of the Serjeants—the only check upon it—and substituting for the Courts in Banco, which safe-guarded the administration of the law, the inefficient and expensive and irresponsible Courts of Appeal, which now disgrace our judicial system, and which, by disregarding the ancient landmarks and settled decisions of the Courts, bring chaos into them.

The Introduction to the 3rd Edition (the American Edition), 74 pages, was written chiefly to give the evidence in support of the theory of this work—that the Poet was descended from the Rowington family, which was chiefly proven by the recent discovery of the Will of John Shakspeare of Rowington, 1546—the missing link, which shows that the Poet's grandfather resided at Old Hatton Hall—to which is added a fuller account of the early history of the family and their ancient tenancy under the Griffins, in the time of Edward II., at Trentham, in Staffs., together with an account of the important discovery by the Baconians that the offensive portions of the Sonnets were the work of Sir Philip Sidney and his friends, and a vindication of Marlow, giving the history of his assassination.

The Introduction to the present Edition gives a sketch of the state of religion and immorality in the time of Queen Elizabeth, who was the *Sycorax* of the play of *The Tempest*, with the motives and objects of the founders of the English and Scotch Reformations, and a statement of their various methods and practices from Henry VIII. to James I., proving that this national degradation was the direct result of the so-called Reformation, the natural fruit of Agnosticism or Protestantism.

"THE ALBINIS OF DERBYSHIRE," 32 pages, being an answer to Mr. Round's Criticism in the *Derbyshire Archæologia*, reprinted from Section IX. of the *History of Derbyshire*. Price Half-a-Crown.

FRANK WOOD, 96, St. Peter's Street, Derby.
MOODY BROS., Needleless Alley, Birmingham.

IT is with great satisfaction that after the numerous misfortunes which have befallen this book the Author is able to issue a Fourth Edition, nearly double in the amount of its contents.

It has a curious history. Printed and published ten years ago, by the late John B. Collins, of the Good Templars' Press, Birmingham, and Charles Rideal, who called himself the Roxburgh Press, it lay dead for several years, for the Author found that between them he was deprived of his interest and copyrights in the book, and in order to recover them he was compelled to bring an action-at-law, which, if not wholly successful, had that desirable effect, and by the exposure given to the conduct of Charles Rideal, it had the happy result to others of compelling that impostor, who had robbed many authors, to fly the country. He had purposely manipulated the Press, keeping the book back from the intelligent; but a few copies came somehow into the hands of honest critics, who were generally favourable. But some of those (whose errors the Author had exposed) though unable to answer him were of course bitterly hostile, though, with few exceptions, they maintained, and still maintain, an ignominious silence, whilst some few of their books are republished without any reference to the important questions proved by the Author's discoveries—which give them rather the character of a history of Hamlet with that hero omitted; although Dr. Furnival, Sidney Lee, Halliwell Phillips, with many other great authorities, set their faces against the possibility of a Rowington origin, and declared that it was impossible, this is now proved as a fact by the production of the Will of 1546, which they had stupidly overlooked, yet even now they have not the good sense or candour to admit their errors, but maintain a dignified silence, which makes them look supremely foolish; nor has any one ventured to impugn the value of the Author's suggestion that we have in the Poet's Will his own hand-writing—a fact that is now universally admitted by competent experts. Let any one deny it, if he dare, in face of the photographs here given. It was only in 1901, when the Author made this last discovery, that he proposed to bring out a second edition, and then he made a further discovery, that in face of the opposition of the great critics no London publisher dare to issue the work, and the reason openly given was that the publishers were afraid that their other clients might suffer from the ill-will of the critics—so honest and fair is the criticism of the day. A country publisher was discovered who had no other clients, but who unfortunately became bankrupt before a single copy was bound, and the Author is now compelled to issue the 4th Edition (the 3rd in this country) without the aid of a London publisher, although several firms have offered to undertake it—if well paid in advance.

The enormous power of the Great Critic is not only apparent in the history of this book, but has been exercised in the most unjust and ungentlemanly manner, by another of the fraternity, Mr. Horace Round, whose inconceivable errors in feudal history the Author was compelled to expose in the 7th and 8th Sections of his Feudal History of Derbyshire. Unknown to himself, Mr. Round, as editor, was bringing out a rival to it, of such a brilliant character that no other dog should be allowed to bark. Unfortunately, in the outset the Author placed his work in the hands of Messrs. Bemrose and Sons, of Derby, who, when he took it out of their management, did their best to wreck it, by losing (as they asserted) about half the names of

his subscribers. This was a terrible misfortune, but it did not have the effect of depriving the Author of the countenance and support of many who value a work which he has striven to write honestly and with a due regard to the truth of history, and with their help he has since produced several sections, and he is now printing the 9th. But this great critic, Mr. Round, who has, unfortunately for the Author, compiled his work for the Victorian Series of County Histories, by which, as he has promised in a recent number of the *Derbyshire Archaeologia*, he is going to enlighten the crass ignorance which unhappily is too prevalent in this beautiful county, though possibly Derbyshire folk are not so ignorant as he imagines. The advent of this book is ardently expected by many, though not much feared by the Author. Mr. Round appears to have had such power with the late Editor of that magazine that he has not only dishonoured himself, but the whole of his subscribers, by making in their work the most shameful and unfounded attacks upon the Author's veracity, in the course of the publication of a wretched and lengthy article by Mr. Round upon the Author's work—of course intended utterly to annihilate him and to bamboozle the Derbyshire reader. This magazine is published by Messrs. Bemrose, the Author's bitter enemies. Probably Mr. Round could find no other publishers to issue his libels, or any other publication to receive them, for any one who is possessed of very small knowledge of archæological matters would at once discover Mr. Round's crass ignorance, and certainly no editor with the instincts of a gentleman would publish such libels without calling for the book upon which Mr. Round was writing. Fortunately, the circulation of this magazine is limited; it is only sold to subscribers, and some of them already take the Author's History, and they will at once discover how they have been imposed upon and dishonoured by their Editor. In anticipation of condemnation, he has happily given himself the happy dispatch, and has resigned his office, and when the subscribers see Mr. Round's Victorian History, they will probably quickly discover the value of a work which required them to participate and to aid him in his extraordinary zeal as a critic, in order to dishonour the Author and his work. If it is written in Mr. Round's usual rash and haphazard manner, it may prove a little disappointing; although the most brilliant success cannot justify them or their publishers in dishonouring others by these indecent libels. That a body of gentlemen should have been so disgraced is absolutely unique. Will they take no steps to dis sever themselves from such libellers?

Criticisms on the First Edition of the Work.

Snowden Ward, in the "Town and Times of Shakspeare."—"Unless Mr. Yeatman's work can be shown to be untrue, and there seems no grounds for impeaching it, the biography of the Poet must be rewritten—it is most interesting; to pass his work without notice would be a decided mistake."

W. L. Courtney, in the *London Telegraph*, Sept. 4th, 1896, on "Modern Reviewers," refers to this latest book on Shakspeare as "quite a charming work."

Birmingham Daily Gazette, 2nd May, 1896.—"The author has performed a service deserving warm acknowledgment, the chapters on the Sonnets and Will contain such a crowd of conjectures as we have never before seen accumulated in any fifty volumes combined."

The Whitehall Review, 6th June.—"The book is sure to receive considerable critical attention from Shakspeareans."

The News Agent, 27th June.—“An important contribution to modern Shaksperism; we have really a new and comprehensive Commentary; it is curiously interesting.”

Vanity Fair, 20th August.—“The book contains a great deal of curious and out of the way information.”

The Morning, 11th June.—“Mr. Yeatman has an enormous capacity for taking pains.”

The People, 7th June.—“An important work, almost certain to beget much heated controversy; it is certainly very well written, and displays no slight amount of scholarship and erudition.”

The Publishers' Gazette, 1st August.—“Mr. Yeatman took just three weeks to write his book—a truly marvellous performance—it is a valuable addition to the biography of the Poet.”

The Season, July.—“The whole book is full of interest.”

The Catholic News, June.—“Mr. Yeatman proves conclusively that our great National Poet was a member of the true faith.”

The Catholic Times, 22nd May.—“We commend the book as most interesting to all who love the immortal works. He has presented us with a very capable work.”

The Era, 12th Sept.—“We welcome many of his conclusions and regard many of his theories as highly ingenious. He found much (in his searches) that should be known to the student of Shakespearian Archæology. Shakspeare, Mr. Yeatman avers, was a Catholic, and it must be admitted that he advances many strong arguments in support of his contention. His remarks on the play of Henry VIII. are well worth reading; a most interesting chapter is the early history of the Shakspeare family.”

BY THE SAME AUTHOR—NOW ISSUING.

“THE FEUDAL HISTORY OF DERBYSHIRE.”

Price 10 Guineas for the whole Work, if paid in advance; or Half a Guinea each Section, as issued. The Work will probably run to 25 Sections or more; eight Sections are issued, the 9th is now in the Press.

THE Author has obtained the privilege from the Rev. Charles Kerry, the Editor of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, undoubtedly the first of living Derbyshire Archæologists, to publish the following letter:—

[EXTRACT.]

“The more I examine your marvellous contributions to the history of my native county, the more I am astonished at the *prodigious* amount of labour and patient research they evince on every page. I am simply delighted, and am very greatly indebted to your labours for the solution of many points which I could not solve. No person professing to take any interest in Derbyshire History would be one day without your magnificent work if only he knew its worth. The cost is trivial in comparison with the enormous labour expended in its compilation. Recompense is out of the question; but at least I will say that Derbyshire owes you an infinite debt of gratitude. If the rest of your books are issued with that careful regard to *minute* transfers of property, gathered from ancient archives, so deeply illustrative of what I might almost say *field* history, as is apparent in the 4th and last Section, there will be nothing left to be desired.

“May God preserve you and enable you to complete what has long been a great desideratum, an exhaustive History of Derbyshire.

“With every kind wish, I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

“PYM YEATMAN, Esq.”

“CHAS. KERRY.”

THE Author has also received permission from Dr. J. C. Cox, the late Editor of the *Archæological Journal*, to publish the following extract from a private letter to himself:—

“I have some power of judgment, and I am certain that your work on Derbyshire is most thorough—wonderfully so, better than anything I know of any county, save—and perhaps not that—*Staffordshire Salt Collections*.”

Notes and Queries, 7th S. III., April 30th, 1877.

“Mr. Yeatman is a hard-working student and a man of great and varied learning. We cannot profess to agree with him on some important subjects. He attributes far more in the making of England to the Keltic element than we feel justified in doing.

“It requires some amount of courage to put before the public a county history not written on the old plan, but giving the original documents, in which almost all our knowledge of local history during the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries is obtained. Such a book can never be amusing, but it contains the very marrow of history, from which all future writers must derive their facts.

“Notes from the Testa de Nevil follow. The Author is inclined to fix its date, or at least the date of a portion of it, at an earlier period than we have been accustomed to allow; we believe that he is correct in this, and that his discovery is a valuable addition to our knowledge of English history. The Introduction which he has written to his Extracts from that great work will be found valuable by many who take but little interest in Derbyshire history.”

Dublin Review, April, 1887, by Abbot Gasquet.

“Those who are interested in Derbyshire will welcome this first volume of a new History of their county. The task Mr. Yeatman has set himself, if carried out in the spirit in which it is begun, will earn the gratitude not only of those who are students of the history of that special county, but of all the genealogists. If we mistake not, the Author's method of treating a county history is his own. It is not everyone who, having the ability and patience necessary for original research, would content himself with giving to the public copies of the documents he has discovered which bear on his subject and be able to resist the temptation to enlarge his stock of original material with judicious padding.

“In the two Sections of the volume before us, Mr. Yeatman proves that he possesses this commendable self-restraint. Only those who have had acquaintance with the work and know the difficulties which beset the path of a searcher into things unknown at the Record Office and elsewhere can appreciate the luxury of having a collection for a county history placed within reach in a printed form. He draws special attention to the importance of the Pipe Rolls in tracing the pedigrees of county families, although strangely enough these records have been almost entirely overlooked by most county historians. The letterpress to the Testa de Nevil Extracts is particularly of interest to the historical student, and the Author throws much light on the date of the document, which is of such importance for 13th century history, about which the editor for the Master of the Rolls in 1833 appears to have had very hazy ideas.

“The printing, paper, and general get-up of the volume is all that the most fastidious can desire, and it is enriched by one of the best indexes we have ever seen, which should prove a mine of wealth to the genealogical student.”

The Reliquary, N S., Vol. 1., No. 1, Jan., 1887; Mr. Llewellyn Jewett.

“These two Sections of Mr. Pym Yeatman's *Feudal History of Derbyshire* form the first volume of a great work which will probably run to some ten volumes, and which will, when complete, have done infinitely more for the county of Derby than has hitherto been accomplished for any special shire.

“The information with respect to such ancient stocks as Ferrars, Hanselin, de Buron, Musard, and many others, is of the greatest value, and though it upsets many theories and statements as to family history previously advanced, is absolutely incontrovertible, for it is all based on the actual records. The indices of persons and places are full, thorough, and complete. We say no more now as there will be other opportunities of advertizing to this grand work as it proceeds towards completion: but surely for such a work there will be no difficulty in finding the full roll of subscribers, for the issues of both the small and large paper copies are strictly limited.”

THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF ARUNDEL.

MR THOMAS HELSBY, the learned Editor of the last Edition of Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, writes:—

“I have had the pleasure and profit just lately of perusing an admirable book of the kind (Mr. Pym Yeatman's recent work on the Earls of Arundel), which contains a great amount of entirely original matter, with all doubtful points acutely raised and well—almost—intensely—argued, showing the zeal and pains which have backed up the learned Author's judicial powers and natural acumen. Of course, like all other history, this one of a family which represents in the aggregate a vast extent of Norman and English territory, is of a tentative character, but the valuable historical

and genealogical matter is purified from the ordinary dross of such productions by having had the advantage of passing through a mind evidently thoroughly capable of reducing it into that state best suited for the critical reader."

And the following from Sir Bernard Bourke, Ulster King of Arms, with reference to the whole book:—

"What a wondrous store of information you have laid up for genealogists in your grand *History of the House of Arundel*. I am at every leisure moment poring over its contents."

Extracts from the "Manchester Courier" of 30th March and 6th April, 1883.

FIRST NOTICE.

"*The History of the House of Arundel*, taking us back for a period of 1,000 years, is one of those works which may well have employed the valuable hours of a member of the learned profession to which the Author, Mr. Yeatman, belongs. The judicial faculties which he has brought to bear upon his subject have, on the whole, thrown so searching a light upon some long-buried points in national history, as well as genealogical problems, that the volume will be hailed by every scholar of unbiassed mind with the cordiality it deserves. *The Early History of the House of Arundel* is that of many of the most historic families in this country and in France; and the bridge, which hitherto has been almost of the flimsiest character, is now fairly established upon the sound basis of numerous, if often fragmentary facts, worked together. It may be, by some defective arguments, by much necessary repetition, dry and wearying details, but, on the whole, with a sagacity and acumen that redeems the work from all reproach."

"Nothing can well be of greater interest to the student than the genealogical connection of this kingdom with that of our Continental neighbours and the old Duchies of Normandy and Brittany. Absolutely little of consequence was known (and this far from accurately) until the publication by the late distinguished Herald, Mr. Planché, of his *William the Conqueror and his Companions*. Sir Francis Palgrave, in his work, was barred from going into all those details of history so necessary to a just appreciation of the connection of the ruling houses of England and Normandy, but his eloquent sketches of the Duchy will never fade from the memory of the cultivated so long as history holds its domain in the human mind. Other gentlemen of repute have since written upon this subject more or less fully, but it seems to have remained for the present learned Author to unearth from the various Archives of the French Republic, and from the great stores of material in the Pipe Rolls and the Red Book of the Exchequer, and those in the possession of the Duke of Rutland and Lord Arundel of Wardour."

From the "Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Journal," Vol. VII., Part I.; a criticism by Sir John Maclean, of Bicknor Court.

"The chapter on the settlement of the house of St. Sauveur, in the West of England, will be found of special interest to our readers, inasmuch as it gives the origin of many ancient families in the Western counties."

"To compile an authentic pedigree of one ancient family is no light task, but to grapple with those of many of the Norman nobility and trace their descendants respectively from original authorities is a work of Herculean labour, and Mr. Yeatman's book, when completed, will form a monument of industry and patient research. He seems to be well acquainted with the several personages who come within his range, and throughout all their shifting scenes maintains, upon the whole, a firm grasp upon their individuality."

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF EARLY ENGLISH HISTORY, etc.

LONGMANS.

The Law Times, 24th October, 1874.

"Such a declaration of independence as that made by the Author, of the works of Freeman, Turner, Kemble, Stubbs, and others who have explored this part of our history, naturally prepared one for startling theories about well-understood facts—for a perplexity when all was plain, and doubt when all was certain. The present work outstrips all such anticipations."

The Edinburgh Courant, 30th October, 1874.

"It is a work of much learning, giving evidence of deep study and careful research. Mr. Yeatman's work suggests many interesting subjects of enquiry. . . . He has brought together facts which are of importance and have not received due attention. His account of the early civilisation of Britain before the Roman invasion is particularly interesting, and he has made it appear not improbable that the common law of England is derived from the ancient Britons, and has subsisted with little change under Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman rulers."

The Weekly Register, 24th October, 1874.

"Here is certainly a book calculated to bring despair to all hitherto credulous readers of our national annals. Closing it after an attentive perusal, the student is almost tempted to regard as literally true the scornful remark which branded history as little better than an old almanac."

"For pointing out very clearly indeed how something may be done in the way of working the mine of historical wealth at the Record Office, the historical students of England have, at any rate, much reason to be thankful to Mr. Yeatman, whose outspokenness in the last chapter in reference to the Record Office defects commands from us in parting our heartiest commendation."

Educational Times, 1st November, 1874.

"This is, to say the least of it, a very remarkable book. In it the Author, with rare temerity, attempts no less a task than the subversion of the whole of the received history of England anterior to the Norman Conquest."

"He has evidently studied his subject carefully, and he displays no little acumen and learning in setting forth his views."

The School Board Chronicle, 17th July, 1875.

"It is a stout octavo book, treating the question at great length and in much detail; and although we cannot agree with the author in many of the more important of his conclusions, we find some new light thrown upon the general question of our mixed race and our more ancient institutions, and must pronounce the book very interesting."

The Metropolitan, 14th August, 1874.

"Old-fashioned people who believe in *Magnall's Questions*, *Pinnock's Catechism of English History*, or in Hume and Smollett, will read this work with fear and trembling. We are not prepared to endorse all the views set forth in these pages, but the book is so immeasurably above the ordinary run of histories, which are mere repetitions of facts previously invented and judiciously arranged, that we must cordially advise every reader to study it intently."

Evening Standard, 12th November, 1874.

"This is a most original Work, overflowing with learning, and marked throughout with a complete mastery over the most minute details of this extensive subject. By far the most interesting portion of the Work is the patient research shown by the Author into the origin of the English language, and his dissertation on our Saxon literature, laws, and customs. Some of the most dangerous errors of Drs. Marsh and Latham are freely exposed, and with success; with like freedom and success the historical errors of Mr. Freeman, Lord Macaulay, and Sir Edward Creasey are brought home to their several authors."

The Press, Philadelphia, 20th November, 1874.

"The present volume is a remarkable example of original thought, historical research, philosophical deduction, and bold disregard of the merely traditional views of previous writers, who, taking too much for granted, have been content to travel in beaten tracts merely because they are old. To a large extent the Author ignores the claims of the Saxons as founders of either the language or the laws of England, and doubts whether, indeed, they had a distinct nationality. The work is earnest and able."

The Law Review (English), Vol. III., N.S., p. 1139 (1874).

"Mr. Yeatman writes with all the spirit of a true antiquary. He has an ardent appreciation of his subject and pursues it with a keenness and a zest known only to those who have for some time indulged in antiquarian research. His work turns up much fertile soil, and though we do not concur in his main views, yet we willingly recognize the general value of his treatise. Its main object seems to be to unearth those jurat elements that lie deep at the base of our laws, and to assign them, if possible, to a British rather than a Saxon origin. In this view he is undoubtedly nearer the truth than those writers—and they are legion, including the great Blackstone himself—who ascribe a Saxon origin to our Common law.

"His description of the influence of Roman jurisprudence on modern law indicates much literary grace and skill. It is clear that Mr. Yeatman is a rhetorician and a poet of no mean order. If ever he diverts his thoughts from the common law, a boundless and more fertile field will lie before him in the domain of general literature. He certainly has all the qualities that constitute a vigorous writer. There is not anything improbable in most of Mr. Yeatman's views. His work indicates great facility of composition, and an intimate familiarity with all the leading arcana of Celtic law."

The American La Review, Vol. IX. (1874-75), p. 123.

"Mr. John Pym Yeatman possesses at least two qualities in common with the distinguished Englishman whose name he bears—independence and courage; without the former he could not have written, without the latter he would hardly have published the extraordinary book which forms the subject of this notice. Mr. Yeatman has produced a remarkable book."

The Freeman's Journal (Dublin).

"Under this unpretending title Mr. Yeatman has given to the world a very valuable book. His Introduction is not, as such works usually are, a mere transcript, more or less abridged, of the standard and approved authors on the subject. It is as remarkable for the boldness and originality of its views as it is for patient research and easy vigour of style. The Author sets out with the theory that falsehood and exaggeration have mingled so largely with the writings of English historians, more especially since the Reformation, that it has become almost impossible to recognise the truth in its twisted, distorted form. He contends that it is not in the history of the Saxons, but in the ignored history of the Celtic race, that England has to look for the origin of all that she possesses that is valuable or noble—her language, her literature, her Common Law, and her Constitution. In the course of his very able work he boldly exposes the innumerable misrepresentations with which English history is underlaid, and advances many strong and ingenious arguments in support of the theory he has adopted. The book is characterized throughout by industrious, laborious, and patient research, and an honest desire to discover and declare the truth at all hazards and under all circumstances."

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The Auckland Times (2nd Notice), 3rd October, 1879.

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