

GENEALOGICAL NOTES ON THE
BENESTS OF ST. HELENA

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[*Genealogical Magazine*, June, 1900, pp. 53-56, and January, 1901,
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- 2—"Descent of BERNAU from the Dukes of Normandy."*
[*Genealogical Magazine*, March, 1901, pp. 507-509].

- 3—"Pedigree of the BENEST Family of Jersey," July, 1905.*
[British Museum, Press-mark :—1856. d. 1. (134)].

- 4—"Genealogy of the BERNAU Family of Stolp," February, 1906.
[British Museum, Press-mark :—*not yet allotted*].

- 5—"A Short Account of the Descendants of ABRAHAM BENEST of
Jersey," March, 1906; printed at the expense of George-Philip
Benest, of St. Helier's, Jersey.
[British Museum, Press-mark :—*not yet allotted*].

- 6.—"A Short Account of the LE GEYT *dit* RAUVET Family, of St.
Saviour's, Jersey," September, 1906; printed at the expense
of Miss R. A. Le Geyt, of St. Saviour's, Jersey.
[British Museum, Press-mark :—*not yet allotted*].

* Several printer's errors in Nos. 2 and 3 are corrected, without further comment, in this pamphlet.

Genealogical Notes^c

ON

The Benests of St. Helier's,

THEIR ANCESTORS & DESCENDANTS.



Compiled December, 1906, by

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Benest, of St. Helier's.

ARMS : Quarterly of four ; 1 and 4. Argent, A chevron, gules, between two roses, slipped, in chief, and a heart in base, all of the second, for **BENEST** : 2 and 3. Ermine, A lion rampant, gules, for **LE GEYT**.

CREST : A lion's head, erased, gules.

MOTTO : " Quo Fata Vocant."

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

ON

The Benests of St. Helier's,

THEIR ANCESTORS & DESCENDANTS.

ARMS, CREST and MOTTO.

OUR authority for assigning to the Benest family the coat of arms:—"A chevron between two roses slipped in chief and a heart in base" is contained in a manuscript note-book written by Messrs. Le Boutillier and Collas, and recently in the possession of the late Judge William Nicolle, of Jersey. Under a tricking of these arms (p. 219) is written:—"Arms of Benest from a seal in the possession of Mrs. Gabourel, no colours indicated." We have taken the colours, *argent* for the field and *gules* for the chevron, roses and heart, from an illustration (facing p. 160) in Payne's "Armorial of Jersey." Mrs. John-Joshua Gabourel, *née* Harriet Benest, was the elder daughter and heiress of Philip Benest, who, as a reference to our "Pedigree of the Benest Family of Jersey" will shew, was probably the head of the whole family at his death in 1804. At that date, Philip's third cousin, George-Philip Benest, "Constable" (= Mayor) of St. Brelade's, would have become the head of the family. The arms as used by George-Philip Benest (nephew of the last-named) were similar to Payne's illustration mentioned above but the chevron is "or" instead of "gules" and the stalks of the roses pierce the heart,* as will be seen from the following re-production of his note-paper die:—



EDWARD - BENEST - SHAW BENEST, sixth cousin (twice removed) of the said George-Philip Benest (the nephew) uses the

* Le Boutillier's tricking shews us that the stems of the roses on Mrs. Gabourel's seal also join, which is incorrect. Payne illustrates the arms correctly at the reference mentioned.

Benest arms quartered with those of Le Geyt as shewn in the frontispiece; these quartered arms being the correct coat for all the Benest descendants of John Benest (b. 1771; d. 1819), consequent on his marriage with Jane, second daughter and eventual co-heiress of Philip Le Geyt-*dit*-Rauvet. It is also probably as a result of this marriage with an heiress of the Le Geyt family that the Benests of St. Helier's adopted the crest and motto shewn in the frontispiece, which (with the exception that the lion's head is "*erased*" instead of being "*couped*") are identical with those of the Le Geyt family. There does not appear to be either a crest or motto proper to the Benest family, but only the coat of arms.

ORIGIN OF THE SURNAME.

THE name Benest, so spelt, is peculiar to the Island of Jersey. There are certainly Benests living in other localities, but they all appear to be descended from the Jersey family of that name.

In order to determine the origin of this surname it is necessary to enquire how it is spelt in the earliest records of the Island. As will be seen later, records of 1274 and 1309 give it as "Beneyt" whilst in 1331 we find it spelt "Beneest," and the early parish registers (16th century) frequently have "Bennest" instead of BENEST.

In the "Hundred Rolls" a "Reginald fil. Beneyt" is mentioned, and Bardsley, an authority on the origin of surnames, quotes this in the appendix of his work, "English Surnames" as an early instance of the name "Bennet." He says (4th edition, pp. 189 and 190):—

Our "Bennets," when not belonging to the class of baptismal names (as a corruption of "Benedict"), once performed the functions of exorcists, and by the imposition of hands and the aspersion of holy water expelled evil spirits from those said to be thus possessed.

The names "Bennest" and "Bennet" would be pronounced practically alike by a Jerseyman.

SURNAMES SIMILAR TO "BENEST."

BENNEST is a surname we noticed some years ago in the directories of both Liverpool and Birkenhead.

BONEST.—In the “Visitation of Dorset, 1623” (Harleian Society’s Publications, Visitation Section, vol. xx) we find that Jane, daughter of a Thomas Bonest, of Bristol, married William Meer, of Cherborne. This Thomas must have lived about the middle of the fifteenth century. The surname “Bonest” is still to be seen in the London Directory.

BOWNEST —John Bownest of Stonebury, Hormead, co. Herts., who died 16 June 1616, married Mary, daughter of — Cooke, of Chishall, co. Essex, and had issue:—John Bownest, also of Stonebury, who was buried at Ashwell, co. Herts., 11 April 1622, leaving a daughter, Martha, who, on 3 July 1626, married Francis Delawood, and had issue, (see Berry’s “Pedigrees of Hertfordshire Families,” p. 226.)

We also find that a Thomas Bownest of St. Nicholas Acons, London, married Mary Gynne of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, by licence, at the latter church on 17 November 1614.

“Bownest” might be a corruption of “Bowness”; a Rev. Thos. Bowness of Nafferton, co. York., died 29 April 1798, (“Gent. Mag.,” 1798, p. 467) and there were three of the surname “Bowness,” but none of “Bownest,” to be seen in the London Directory for 1893. There is none of either now.

BENOIST.—A well-known French surname. A stretch of imagination would be necessary to connect this with “Benest,” though in 1603 one of the Benests of St. Lawrence is referred to in the records as “Raulin Benoest.”

BENESTED.—This form occurs in Bank’s “Baronies in Fee,” vol. i, p. 122. It is probably only a corruption of Bensted, a family of which name has been settled at Maidstone, co. Kent, for about four centuries.

BÉNÉZET. -- A French surname. Ant. Benezet, a Quaker, died at Philadelphia in 1784, aged 71 (see “Annual Monitor,” 1813, p. 9.)

BENESCH can be found in the London Directory.

BENEYT, we have already noted above as probably the parent-form of “Bennet” as well as “Benest.”

BENNET, with its variations, “Benett,” “Benet” and “Bennett,” ranks, we believe, among the hundred most frequent surnames in England.

BINET, frequently found in the records of Jersey, and a surname well represented now in the Island, may originally have been another spelling for “Benest.” This will be seen by comparing the *Extentes*, where a rent due by Binet in 1668

and 1749 is entered in 1607 as due by a Benest; though it ought also to be noticed that two rents paid by Binet in 1528, 1668 and 1749 are entered as due by a Benest in 1607, from which it would appear that the compilers of the 1607 *Extente* may have been ignorant that the Binets and Benests were distinct.

“ BENEST ” AS A BAPTISMAL NAME.

THE name BENEST has been used as a baptismal name, both male and female.

A “ *Beneste Le Cerf* ” was the wife of John Le Quesne, circa 1570, (Payne’s “ *Armorial of Jersey*,” p. 251.)

A “ *Benest Viel* ” is mentioned in the *Extente* for 1668.

“ *Edward-Benest-Shaw Benest* ” (born 1853) is still living, but this last example is, we understand, the result of a misunderstanding at the time of baptism.

The names of “ *William-Langston-Benest Janvrin* ” (born 1853), and his son, “ *Ralph-Benest Janvrin* ” (born 1884), will be found on p. 26.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

THE BENEST family is one which is undoubtedly difficult to trace. Its members resided for many generations in the parish of St. Laurence, the registers of which prior to the year 1640 have unfortunately been lost, and, but for a “ *Généalogie* ” of his ancestors, which John Benest (b. 1737; d. 1821) drew up in 1808, no connected account of the family before the middle of the seventeenth century could be attempted. There are, of course, frequent references to Benests in the records of the Island, but these are of too meagre a nature to enable one to compile a pedigree from them. It is possible, however, by consulting these records (and we here refer more especially to the “ *Livres des Héritages* ”) to both check and add to the information contained in John Benest’s “ *Généalogie* ” (this being the title with which he endorsed his manuscript) and, as we have made by no means an exhaustive search at the *Registre Public* at St. Helier, many interesting facts might also still be gleaned there.

From 1737 till the present time the Family Bible, the parish registers of St. Helier’s and other sources of information, as will be seen later, have been used.

Née Benest 1572
 Née Benest 1570
 Philippe Benest son fils 1607
 Raulin Benest fils du d^e Ph 1627
 Pierre Benest son Frere qui est le 3^e fils d^e 1630
 Pierre Benest fils Pierre d^e 1657
 Jean Benest fils Pierre d^e 1684
 Jean Benest fils Jean fils Pierre 1710
 Jean Benest fils J^e J^e J^e Pierre 1741
 Philippe Benest 2^e fils de Jean fils Pierre 1783
 Jean Benest fils Ph^e 1737
 Jean Benest fils Jean fils Ph^e 1771
 Jean Benest fils J^e J^e J^e Ph^e 1799

Le dit Raulin Benest fils Ph^e f^e Née fit un Amandement de Partage à Ph^e Benest Pierre Benest Abraham Benest & Née Benest Les freres puisnés. le 23^e Septembre 1657. . . .
 La Maison & terres qui appartenait au dit Pierre Benest fils Ph^e f^e Née à l'Épée 1657. etc.
 à la même place où est la Maison que Jean Benest f^e Ph^e Bailla en Partage à François Benest son Frere 1754. Cette Maison & les terres qui y ont esté par les Partages) a etc & est actuellement possedée par la même famille des Benest depuis 1657. Jusqua Uujourd'hui premier Jour de Mars Mil huit Cent huit.

Un des freres du d^e Raulin avoit la Maison qui est au Ouest des Chapes & qui appartient à M^r George Du Pré. Sa fille aînée Epousa.

Un des fils de Raulin Benest avoit nom George Benest le Pere de Mons^r Brun Benest Pere de Mons^r George Benest & de M^{lle} Elizabeth Benest sa Sœur, qui a Epousé Mons^r Thomas Falle son Cousin étant petit fils de M^{lle} Elizabeth Benest sa grand Mere qui etc. Sœur de Mons^r J^e J^e Benest f^e Raulin, le d^e S^r Thomas Falle & Mons^r Louis Felle son frere, heritiers du d^e Mons^r J^e J^e Benest leur Oncle qui mourut sans heirs. On bailla le Minage proche la Maison M^r George Du Pré à S^t Laurents.

Un des f^e des fils de Née Benest avoit nom Maximilien Benest Epousa une fille à M^r Mathieu de Gallois de Surville, La Maison etc. proche le Curet à S^t Laurents.

M^r Jean Benest fils Thomas f^e Jean possede la Maison de ses Peres ^{est M^r J^e J^e} qui étoit des descendants d'un des fils de Née Benest.

M^r Jean Gibaut f^e Nicolas & de deffunte Marie Lucr. La femme de l'Evêq. Partage pour le Minage de la M^{re} en S^t Laurents le 29^e Octobre 1685. à ses freres & sœurs savoir à Raulin Gibaut
 à Jacques Gibaut qui Epousa Clotilde S. Sirel. Marie Gibaut leur fille Epousa M^r Benest
 Au fils de Elizabeth Gibaut deffunte qui etc. femme de Daniel Coman.
 à Anne Gibaut femme de Nicolas Querey
 à Genevieve Gibaut femme de Raulin Unglois de la Maison Louis Maréchal

THE "GÉNÉALOGIE" OF 1808.

THE "Généalogie," of which a photograph is re-produced on the opposite page, gives a brief account of the family from the sixteenth century till its writer's birth (1737), and, together with various other notes, mentions the dates of birth of his son and grandson.

The importance of this document lies in the fact that the Family Bible contains no entries relating to events previous to the birth of John Benest, the writer of the "Généalogie," which latter document, as already stated, in the absence of the earlier registers of St. Laurence's parish, supplies the only connected narrative concerning the family prior to this date.

It is, in the main, accurate, though from external evidence the birth years of the first four generations would appear to be placed about ten to twenty years too late. The first and second paragraphs with this exception can certainly be relied on, but the third and fourth paragraphs confuse two Raulin* Benests, as will be more fully explained on p. 12.

From this and other internal evidence it would appear that John Benest based the first two paragraphs, which deal with his own ancestors, on family documents, such as *Partages* then in his possession, but that when he wrote about collateral branches of the family he relied solely on hearsay and his memory.

The second paragraph omits to mention that Raulin Benest (son of Philip, son of Noel) had a younger brother, John.

The third paragraph is, we think, left unfinished in spite of the fullstop, and in the fourth paragraph the word "cousin" is used in its wider meaning, as Elizabeth Benest was "second cousin, once removed" to her husband, Thomas Falle; but these are points connected with the St. Brelade's branch of the family, of which it is not our present intention to treat.

In the fifth and sixth paragraphs the Noel Benest referred to is the second mentioned in the manuscript. This is evident from the fact that the first "Noé Benest" has been added at a later date.

* In the "Pedigree of the Benest Family of Jersey, July 1905," we used the baptismal name "Rowland" as the English equivalent of "Raulin," but in these notes we have returned to the original form "Raulin," as we see that Bardsley found "Raulyn" and "Raulinus" used as baptismal names in the "Writs of Parliament," and the "Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londonensi" respectively. "Raulin" consequently may be considered an English baptismal name though we personally know of no use of it in England since the Middle Ages. Bardsley gives it as an affectionate diminutive form of "Ralph" (*vide* his "English Surnames," 4th edit., pp. 36, 37 and 589).

In paragraph seven it is left very uncertain which John Benest married Mary Gibaut. Without being able definitely to locate this John, we consider it highly probable that the writer here refers to his grandfather.

The "Généalogie" is, at present, in the possession of Mrs. Mary Benest, widow of the late Edward-Everett Benest, who kindly allowed us to have it photographed.

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF ST. LAURENCE'S.

AS already stated, the existing registers commence with the year 1640. Through the courtesy of the Rev. A. O. Balleine, the present Rector of St. Laurence, we have been enabled to carefully search them, as follows:--

Book I—1640 to 1693 (i.e. the whole book).

Book II—1693 to 1696, only.

Book III—1740 to 1757 only (i.e. pp. 1 to 81 incl.)

Book IV—(Baptisms from 1783 to 1796) the whole book.

Book V—(Marriages from 1783), to 1837 only.*

Book VI—(Burials from 1783). Not searched at all.

We give these dates for the benefit of anyone who may be willing to take up the work from the point at which we have left off.

THE FAMILY BIBLE.

THE Rev. John-William Benest, the present head of the "Benests of St. Helier's," is the owner of a Family Bible, in which the majority of the entries (which by-the-way are in French) appear to have been made by the same John Benest who wrote the "Généalogie," and, as already stated, they commence with his birth in 1737.

With the exception of two entries made in 1879 and 1881, the latest is of May 1821, and it was in the October of that year that the compiler of the "Généalogie" died. The baptisms of the two eldest children of his grandson, John, are recorded, but John Benest, junior, made no entries and consequently his ten other children are not mentioned. His father, the son of the compiler of the "Généalogie," died *vitâ patris*.

* and in this Book we noted only those marriages where the *husbands* were Benests.

THAT an "Emelote Beneyt" lived in Jersey before 1253 we are justified in stating, as in 1274, we see from the *Extente*, or Royal Rent Roll of the Island, that a Drouet de St. Martin held land from the King in the parish of Trinity, Jersey, viz.:—three vergées which were forfeited by Mayn Picotel, and two vergées forfeited by Emelote Beneyt, together of the annual value of five bushels of wheat, which rent the King had not received since the time when Drouet de Barentine was Bailiff of the Island.

There were two Drouet de Barentines, both Wardens of the Norman Isles. One is described as "very aged" in 1239, and the other, his grandson, was slain in 1253.

In 1309, a Robert Beneyt is mentioned (in the "Rolls of the Assizes held in the Channel Islands, 2 Edw. II") as the holder of five perches of crown land in St. Peter's, Jersey, received by him in marriage with the daughter of Godfrey Vasoun, who purchased it from Robert Pipon, who with John Bernard and other partners, was the holder of seven and a half virgates of *bordage* land, of which these five perches formed part.

In the *Extente* for 1331, a "Robert Beneest" (who was most probably identical with the said Robert Beneyt of St. Peter's) is entered as holding two bouvées of crown land in the parish of St. Peter's for the yearly rental of sixteen sous.

In the above-quoted record of 1309 we find mention also of a "John Bennes" of the parish of St. Saviour, Guernsey.

After 1331, owing to the lack of records relating to Jersey, we lose trace of the family for nearly two centuries. It is therefore necessary to imagine five generations, (living say 1360, 1390, 1420, 1450 and 1480), if one wishes to consider the probable relationship between the above-mentioned Robert and those Benests who are named in the next *Extente*, dated 1528. About the same date commence the records, now preserved at St. Helier's, relating to the descent of land in the Island, and in these records the name Benest is of frequent occurrence even in the first volume.

A Benest living about 1480 may have been the father of some or all of the following:—

- (i) John Benest in 1528 owed two rents to the King, one for "herbage" in St. Laurence's, and the other for land on the fee of St. Germain's in the parish of St. Laurence. John died about 1569, as will be seen later.

- (ii) Philot Benest in 1528 owed three rents to the King for land in St. John's and St. Laurence's parishes, all three in 1607 are debited to Nicholas, the son of Deonis Le Cousteur.
- (iii) Nicholas (or "Collas") Benest, of St. Laurence's, is mentioned in the records under dates 1534 and 1539.
- (iv) Louis Benest, of St. Laurence's, is mentioned in connection with the above Nicholas under date 1539.
- (v) Richard Benest, of St. Laurence's. In the *Extente* of 1607 Jaques Rondell is debited with a rent in St. Laurence's for John Hammon of Trinity in discharge of Richard "Bennest" in the right of his wife, a daughter of Gratian Le Grosse. Perin Le Gros paid the same rent in 1528. Another rent (in Trinity Parish) paid in 1528 by "Perin legros," was paid in 1607 by "Jaques Rondell for John Hammon having the right of Richard Benest." This Richard may have been the Richard Benest, whose son, Louis Benest, in 1602, bought rents (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 75).
- (vi) Peter Benest, who, in 1533, is mentioned in connection with :—
- (vii) Julian Benest. A Julien Benest was one of the twelve witnesses before the Royal Commissioners of Henry VIII in 1515 (*vide* 3rd Publication of the Société Jersiaise, p. 9.)

From the first of the above seven Benests it is possible to trace the following connected genealogy down to the present day, but, as we also have many notes referring to Benests who find no place in the pedigree of John Benest's descendants, it is to be presumed that some others, or all, of the above seven are now represented by direct descendants bearing the surname Benest.

THE BENESTS OF ST. LAURENCE'S.

I.—**J**OHAN BENEST, of St. Laurence's, mentioned above as paying rents to the King in 1528, died in or before 1569, as in that year we find that Noel Benest and Raulin Gibaut, *causa uxoris*, divided some of John's property.

His children were :—

- (i) Raulin Benest, of St. Laurence's, who in 1573 divided lands "aux Blanchés Pierres" with Noel Benest in St. Laurence's. In 1564, Philip Le C..... [? Coûteur], eldest son of John Le C..... [? Coûteur], recognized Raulin Benest, *causa uxoris*, as a kinsman, from which we may conclude that Raulin married a daughter of John Le C..... [? Coûture]. He appears to have had issue :—

(i) Nicholas Benest, who in 1602 sold a field "Du Quesne" to Philbert Benest (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 5. On fol. 200 and 265 Nicholas is described as "fils Raulin Benest"). In 1605, Nicholas "fils Raulin Benest" sold a field in St. Laurence's to Edward Bisson (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 249).

In the *Extente* of 1607 he is entered as owing a rent for "herbage" in St. Laurence's; (we have seen that John Benest, in 1528, paid a rent for "herbage" in the same parish, but the amounts are not identical) and also two hens rent to the fee of St. Germain's in St. Laurence's, "for John Bennest," though this latter rent is not debited to John in the *Extente* of 1528. Nicholas had a son:—

(i) Thomas Benest. The last-mentioned rent was paid in 1668 by Joshua Ahier, *causa uxoris* the daughter of Lawrence Hamptonne, for Thomas Benest, son of Nicholas. This Joshua Ahier was Rector of St. Laurence's and married Elizabeth, daughter and eventual co-heir of Lawrence Hamptonne, Vicomte and Lieutenant Bailiff of Jersey, who entertained Charles II on his visit to the Island. Lawrence Hamptonne does not appear to have been related to this Thomas Benest, though his grand-daughter Elizabeth Ahier, married Raulin Benest, son of Raulin, son of the Raulin mentioned on p. 13. The reason the Rev. Joshua Ahier paid this rent in 1668 for Thomas Benest would appear to be that, though the Rector's grand-father, Edward Bisson, had bought the field in question from Nicholas Benest in 1605 (see above) the latter was held responsible for the rent in the *Extente* of 1607, and his son Thomas Benest had evidently been responsible for the payment of it sometime between the years 1607 and 1668.

(ii) Elizabeth, daughter of Raulin Benest and wife of Peter Faultrart sold land to Helier Le Gros in November 1603, (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 89).

In the registers of St. Brelade's, under date 21 November 1630, we notice:—

"Elizabeth fille de M^r. Pre. Fautrart ministro enterrée."

- (iii) a daughter who married, before 1605 Thomas Le Goupil (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 265).
- ?(iv) Philbert Benest, who, as already stated, bought a field " Du Quesne " from Nicholas Benest, son of Raulin, in 1602.

- ?(v) Thomas Benest. In 1604, Collette, widow of Thomas Benest and daughter of Yvon Bisson by Sainte, his wife, is mentioned as selling rents (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 159).

This Thomas cannot be identical with Thomas, son of Nicholas, as, dying in or before 1604, he would not have inherited the land on which Thomas, son of Nicholas, paid rent. Nicholas was living in 1607.

The children of Thomas are mentioned in 1604 (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 165 and 201) as:—

- (i) John Benest, elder son.
 (ii) Isaac Benest, younger son.

Without any definite proof to support the statement, we are inclined to think that the Benest descendants of Raulin Benest (son of John) died out with his grandson or grandsons, and that a descendant of his brother, Noel, would then have become heir-male of their father, John, with whose name this account of the Benests of St. Laurence's commences.

- (ii) Nicholas Benest, (son of John) died before 1607, then in the *Extente* of that year his heirs or assigns are debited with a rent (for land on the fee of St. Germain) which John Benest paid in 1528.

In 1749, a descendant of his brother Noel (*viz.* Elizabeth, heir of her brother Joshua Benest of the St. Brelade's branch of the family) paid the same rent, which would appear to shew that Joshua Benest, who was heir-male of the said Noel, was consequently heir-male of this Nicholas, who evidently had no direct descendants living in 1749.

The rent in question is untraceable in the *Extente* of 1668.

- (iii) Noel Benest, (son of John) of whom hereafter.
- (iv) a daughter of John Benest evidently married before 1569 Raulin Gibaut (see p. 11).

?(v) Peter Benest, the father of :—

- (i) John Benest, (husband of Mary, daughter of John Sarre by Perretine, his wife), who sold an inheritance in 1602 (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 23) to Philip Benest, son of Noel, (for whom see below).

II.—NOEL BENEST, (son of John), as already stated on p. 8, divided lands with Raulin Benest "aux Blanchés Pierres" in St. Laurence's in 1572, having already in 1569 divided some of John Benest's property with Raulin Gibaut, *causa uxoris*.

This is the "Noé Benest" who is described in the "Généalogie" as having been born about 1540; but, from the fact that his son John must have come of age in or about 1577, we are inclined to name 1530 as Noel Benest's probable year of birth, and 1555 (instead of the "Généalogie's" 1570) as that of his son, Noel. Noel Benest, senior, married Genette, daughter of John Regnauld, and had issue :—

- (i) John Benest, who is described in 1577 as of St. Laurence's and as "fils Noel et de Jenette sa femme fille de Jean Regnauld," he being then interested with his brother-in-law Ambroise Le Breton, *causa uxoris*, in a division of property.

(ii) Noel Benest, of whom hereafter.

- (iii) Philip Benest, who in 1602 bought an inheritance from John Benest, son of Peter, (for whom see above).

A "Philippe Benetz de Gerzé" was admitted to Holy Communion on 15 November 1596 in the Huguenot Church at Southampton (*vide* the published registers of that church).

- (iv) Raulin "Benoest," son of Noel, who on 14 September 1603 bought the house called "Hagays" from a Messervy (see *Registre Public*, Book 1, fol. 68). He may have been the "Rolin Benest" who married Elizabeth, and whose children by her were baptized at St. Helier's; they were :—

- (i) "Rolin," baptized 28 December 1603. This "Rolin," junior, may be identical with the Raulin "Bennest" who married *Elizabeth* Baillehache* at St. Brelade's 17 January 1637/8, especially as on 8 February of the same year she, being then a godmother, is described in the registers of St. Brelade's as "femme de Raulin Benest, *Junior*."

* not to be confused with *Sara* Baillehache, who married a Raulin Benest, Junior of the St. Brelade's branch), at St. Laurence's, on 3 February, 1668.

- (ii) Rachel, baptized 22 May 1605.
- (iii) John, baptized 19 April 1607.
- (v) Marguerite, daughter of Noel Benest, died in 1684, having married before 1577 Ambroise Le Breton, who died in 1630 leaving issue by her (see 31st Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise, p. 39).

III.—NOEL BENEST, (son of Noel, son of John), would probably have been born about 1555, and not about 1570, as stated in the "Généalogie." The latter date must be quite wrong for at least two reasons; first, we have already seen, on p. 11, that his brother John must have been of age in 1577, and, second, if the property of Noel Benest (son of Noel) was divided "entre ses Enfants" in 1605, as stated in the "Généalogie," then at least two of his children must have been of age in 1605 which would make Noel not older than 13 years when his eldest child was born!

He died in or before 1605, having had issue at least two sons:—

- (i) Philip Benest, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) a son, father of:—
 - (i) Maximilian Benest, who married and had issue, into whose history, it is, however not our present intention to enter.

IV.—PHILIP BENEST, (son of Noel, son of Noel), born say about 1580.

The "Généalogie" gives his birth-year as about 1600, but this date is impossible as his eldest son, Raulin, could not have been born later than 1615, having a nephew and niece (children of his *younger* brother, John) both of age in 1657.

The reason the "Généalogie" goes astray in the birth-years of its first four generations is not hard to find. The writer of it worked backwards from the fact that Raulin, the great-grandfather of his cousin, Elizabeth Falle *née* Benest, died in 1675, aged 48, and was therefore born in or about 1627. He knew that his cousin was descended from a Raulin Benest, eldest brother of his own ancestor Peter Benest, and naturally concluded that these two Raulin Benests were identical, when, as a matter of fact, the Raulin who was born about 1627 was son of the Raulin, brother of Peter. Having made this mistake it is natural that he should conclude:—

- (a) that his own ancestor, Peter, being the third son, was born about 1630.
- (b) that Peter's father, Philip, was born about 1600.
- (c) that Philip's father, Noel, was born about 1570.
- (d) that Noel's father, Noel, was born about 1540.

The exact intervals of thirty years between these dates show clearly the reasoning employed by the writer of the "Généalogie."

Philip Benest, (son of Noel, son of Noel), married Sara Luce (see *Registre Public*, Book 15, fol. 517), by whom he had issue as follows:—

- (i) Raulin,
- (ii) Philip,
- (iii) Peter, whose great-great-grandson was the ancestor of the Benests of St. Helier's and whose line we shall consequently follow in these notes.
- (iv) Abraham, for whose descendants see our pamphlet "A Short Account of the Descendants of Abraham Benest of Jersey."*
- (v) Noel,
- (vi) John,
- ?(vii) Jane Benest, "vefve de Thos Blampied," buried at St. Laurence's, 13 April 1676.

Philip Benest and Sara Luce, his wife, are both described, in 1657, as deceased (*Registre Public*, Book 15, fol. 517).

Before considering the history of their third son, Peter, and his descendants, we would draw attention to the fact that his other brothers, Raulin, Philip, Noel and John, all married and had issue, into whose history and that of their descendants it is not our present intention to enter. In our "Pedigree of the Benest Family of Jersey, July 1905" we have endeavoured to summarize our voluminous notes on these other branches of the family, but are conscious that there is still much to be done before they are sufficiently complete to warrant publication in full. We wish, however, to take this opportunity of stating in reference to the descendants of the eldest son, Raulin, that:—

- (a) the pedigree of the descendants of his eldest son, Raulin, given on page 124 of Payne's "Armorial of Jersey," is utterly unreliable in its earlier generations.
- (b) "Andrew, b. 1774" (see "Pedigree") died after 1795 and in or before 1827 at sea, unmarried.
- (c) Philip Benest, who was a Lieut. in the R.J.M., and a Captain in the R.N., married Susannah Le Ber, daughter of Samuel Le Ber, of Guernsey.

Their two children were:—

- (i) Harriet-Susannah, who died unmarried.
- (ii) George-Philip Benest, Constable of St. Brelade's, who married Ellen-Campbell Fitzwalter, only surviving daughter of Captain John Fitzwalter, H.E.I.C.S.

* Mr. G. P. Benest advises us, under date 3 December, 1906, that no births, marriages or deaths have occurred in his branch of the family since that pamphlet was printed.

(d) The said George-Philip Benest was the father of:—

(i) George-Philip, born in the parish of St. Abb's, Oxford. He married Edith-Maria Powell, eldest daughter of Thos. Powell, of Edgbaston, co. Warw.

Their only child, Cleöne-de-Hevningham Benest, was born 13 June, 1880.

(ii) Philip-George-Anthony, died young.

(iii) Raulin-Fitzwalter, born in Jersey, married 19 Novr., 1879, at Brighton, Catharine Whetton. Their only child, Violet Benest, was born, in Jersey, 3 Novr. 1881.

(iv) Anthony-Philip-George, who died in Melbourne, Australia, had married in Sydney, Australia, Mary-Maud Cobham, daughter of Cobham, M.D., and left two daughters:—(i) Mary-Caroline, and (ii) Marion-Fitzwalter.

(v) Ellen-Georgina, now living, unmarried, in Australia.

(vi) Marion-Rebekah-Gasse, who died unmarried.

(e) In view of the lack of sons to the children of George-Philip Benest and Ellen-Campbell Fitzwalter, it is most probable that Raulin Benest (son of Philip, son of Noel) will eventually be without a living male Benest descendant, and consequently the whole of this, the eldest, branch of the Benest family may become extinct.

V.—PETER BENEST, (son of Philip, son of Noel), was, according to the "Généalogie," Philip's *third* son and born about 1630. He may have been the third son, though it is doubtful where his brother, John, who is not mentioned in the "Généalogie," ranked in the family (we know only that he was not the eldest son) but that Peter was born about 1630 is certainly incorrect. How this error arose has already been explained. As his above-mentioned brother John had two children of age in 1657, we may take it that Peter was born about 1615—certainly not later. He received a share of his father's property on 23 September 1657; of this it is said in the "Généalogie" that:—

The house and lands which belonged to him in 1657 were in the same locality as the house which John Benest [*viz.* the writer of the "Généalogie"], son of Philip, ceded in 1784 to his brother, Francis, as the latter's share of a "*Partage*," and that this house (together with such lands as remained after the various "*Partages*" which had occurred in the meantime) was from 1657 until then [1808] owned by the same family of the Benests.

Peter was evidently still living on 16 September 1688) as his son is then still described as "Peter Benest, *Junior*"), he married Catherine Saison, and both he and his wife are described on 8 May 1703 as "deceased" (see *Registre Public*, Book 27, fol. 234). They had issue:—

- (i) Peter, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) Philip, baptized at St. Laurence's 29 November 1657 (Godparents:—Philip Benest and his wife). He was godfather in 1677 to Peter Benest, son of Peter, son of Peter.
- (iii) Elizabeth, baptized at St. Laurence's 21 April 1661 (Godparents:—Philip Tracy and his wife).
- (iv) Catherine, baptized at St. Laurence's 6 March 1663 (Godparents:—"Jeremie Baall, junior & Françoise Enouf.")
- (v) Abraham, baptized at St. Laurence's 23 March 1669. (Godparents:—"the son of Abraham Benest of St. Peter" and Françoise Esnouf). Still living in 1703 (*Registre Public*, Book 27, fol. 234, 8 May 1703).
- ?(vi) Sarah, godmother in 1677 to Peter Benest, son of Peter, son of Peter.

VI.—PETER BENEST, (son of Peter, son of Philip), is mentioned in the "Généalogie" as being born about 1657. This date is almost accurate, but in view of his younger brother, Philip, being baptized in November 1657, we prefer to put the approximate year of his birth as 1656. The writer of the "Généalogie" probably arrived at the year 1657 by deducting Peter's age at death from the date of death, which method frequently causes the result to be a year wrong, either too early or too late. On 9 May 1674, Peter married Elizabeth Luce at St. Laurence's.

On 3 May 1684, Philip Luce and Elizabeth Luce, wife of Peter Benest, (children of the deceased Elias Luce and of the deceased Jane Gallichan, his wife) cede all the property coming to them from their said parents to John Luce their elder brother (see *Registre Public*, Book 23, fol. 127).

On 31 October 1687, Peter Benest *Junior* cedes to his eldest son, also called Peter Benest *Junior*, his house, etc., and one cabot of wheat-rent due from the heirs of Noel Benest (see *Registre Public*, Book 24, fol. 59).

* Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, we have noted the godparents from the Church Registers of Baptisms and the Family Bible, as valuable information is contained in these names (*e.g.* probability, and frequently proof, of relationship, also proof of friendship between the parents and godparents and, of course, of the latter being still living at the date of the baptism). It is regrettable that the majority of the parish registers in English churches, unlike those of Jersey, contain no note of the godparents' names.

On 8 May 1703, Peter Benest (*viz.* the husband of Elizabeth Luce) is described as his father's eldest son (see *Registre Public*, Book 27, fol. 234).

His children were:—

- (i) Elizabeth, baptized at St. Laurence's 29 November 1674 (Godparents:—Peter Benest and his wife, *viz.* the paternal grandparents of the child).
- (ii) Peter, baptized at St. Laurence's 5 August 1677 (Godparents:—Philip and Sarah Benest).
- (iii) Raulin, baptized at St. Laurence's 2 March 1678 (Godparents:—Jeremie Ball and Sarra Le Masurier, his wife).

He may be the Raulin Benest of St. Laurence's, who married 20 July 1700 at St. Helier's Anne Le Gros, of St. Laurence's, though we are inclined to think that Anne Le Gros' husband was a son of the Maximilian Benest mentioned on p. 12.

- (iv) John, of whom hereafter.
- (v) Mary, baptized at St. Laurence's 19 April 1685 (Godfather:—Raulin Benest).
- (vi) Philip, baptized at St. Laurence's 16 September 1688 (Godparents:—Philip Luce and his wife).
- (vii) William, baptized at St. Laurence's 13 November 1692 (Godparents:—Philip Le Boutillier and his wife).

VII.—JOHN BENEST, (son of Peter, son of Peter) was baptized at St. Laurence's 8 October 1682 (Godparents:—John Belin and his mother). According to the "*Généalogie*" he was born about 1684, this date also probably being ascertained by deducting his age at death from the date of his death.

He is most probably identical with the John Benest mentioned in the following extract from the burial register of St. Helier's:—

"Jean Benest Se^r fut enterré le vingtcinquieme jour de Mars Mille Sept Cents quarante deux." (1742)

He may be the John Benest who married Mary Gibaut (see the "*Généalogie*" and p. 6).

His children were:—

- (i) John Benest, who was born in 1710 (see the "Généalogie"), married Anne*, daughter of a William Benest.

His is probably the burial recorded in the register of St. Helier's under date 1747:—

"Jean Benest fils Jean fut enterré le dix-septieme jour de Mars Mille Sept Cents quarante sept."

Another entry in the same register under date 1735 refers probably to a child of this John by Anne Benest:—

"Jean fils de Jean Benest fils Jean fut enterré le neuvieme jour de juin Mille Sept Cents trente cinq."

However this may be, they had a son, John, born in 1741, from whom, at his death *s.p.* in 1783, his uncle:—

- (ii) Philip Benest, (born 1712), inherited the family house, presumably situated in St. Helier's parish. Of this Philip hereafter:—
?(iii) Mary. In 1740 we find John Benest and his daughter, Mary, were godparents at St. Laurence's to Joshua, son of Philip Benest.

A Mary Benest, of St. Laurence's, was married there on 29 September 1745 to Joshua Gallichan, Junior, also of that parish. Their children were:—

- (i) Mary Gallichan, baptized at St. Laurence's, 12 November 1749 (Godparents:—Philip Langlois and Sara De Rue, his wife).
(ii) Elizabeth Gallichan, baptized at St. Laurence's, 7 May 1752 (Godparents:—John Benest and Elizabeth Le Cras, widow of Abraham Gibaut).
(iii) Rachel Gallichan, baptized at St. Laurence's, 16 November 1755 (Godparents:—Helier Gallichan and Mary Le Cornu, his wife).

* Perhaps his first-cousin. The following references to the *Registre Public* may be found of use in tracing her history:—

Book 65, fol. 2—mentions Abraham, John and Philip Benest (brothers). Anne Benest, daughter of William Benest and wife of said John Benest. Their son, John, and John the son of said Philip.

Book 67, fol. 129 (1784), to which the above notes make frequent reference, mentions also Anne Benest, mother of John.

Book 73, fol. 45 (31 October 1789), mentions a William Benest and his three daughters:—(i) Catherine, wife of Matthew Hocquard (ii) Elizabeth, wife of John Nicolle, and (iii) Anne Benest, deceased.

The combination "William Benest" is uncommon. "William, son of William" and "William, son of John" were baptized at St. Helier's in 1653 and 1663 respectively. "William, son of Peter" at St. Laurence's in 1692, as mentioned above. A "William Benest" married in 1697, Mary Kerbel, at St. Helier's; one (perhaps the same) was buried there in 1726, and William, son of Wm.-Le Bas Benest, was born in 1884, but at the moment we can recall no others of this name, whilst we have more than 45 distinct "John Benests" among our notes.

?(iv) Abraham, who was godfather in 1742 to Sarah, daughter of Philip Benest. He may be identical with the Abraham Benest, of St. Laurence's, who married at St. Helier's Jane Esnouf, also of St. Laurence's, (our note says "on 22 September 1748," but this is obviously incorrect, as) their son Philip, was baptized at St. Laurence's on 2 February 1745 (Godparents:—Philip Maret and his wife).

An Abraham Benest was buried at St. Laurence's 21 November 1748.

?(v) Sarah, buried at St. Laurence's 30 January 1742, widow of Matthew Trachy.

or ?(v) Sarah, who married Raulin Le Gros, and had issue:—

(i) a child, baptized at St. Laurence's, 5 January 1745.

(ii) Jane Le Gros, baptized at St. Laurence's, 24 September 1747 (Godparents:—George Du Pré and Jane Aubin, his wife).

(iii) Joshua Le Gros, baptized at St. Laurence's, 9 July 1749 (Godparents:—Johu Langlois and Susan De Ste. Croix).

?(vi) Anne, who married John De Ste. Croix. She was buried at St. Laurence's, 8 June 1747, being then described as his wife, so he evidently survived her.

?(vii) Jane "Benée," of St. Laurence's, who married at St. Helier's, 28 May [?1739], Laurence Langlois, also of St. Laurence's. Their children were:—

(i) Matthew Langlois, baptized at St. Laurence's, 27 April 1746. His godparents were Matthew Dorey and Magdelaine Romeril, his wife. (Madeleine, *née* Romeril, widow, was buried at St. Laurence's, 19 September 1755. She had been three times married, 1stly to a *Philip Benest*, 2ndly to Noel Le Sueur and 3rdly to the said Matthew Dorey).

(ii) Elizabeth Langlois, baptized at St. Laurence's, 20 March 1747 (Godparents:—Matthew Dorey, Junior, and Elizabeth Le Sueur, his wife).

(iii) Helier Langlois, baptized at St. Laurence's, 14 October 1750 (Godparents:—Helier Romeril and Jane Laffoley).

VIII.—PHILIP BENEST, (son of John, son of Peter), born 1712 (see the "Généalogie"), inherited in 1783, as stated above, a house from his nephew John Benest, son of John.

He married firstly Sarah Vautier. We do not know much at present about her family, but she probably had two sisters:—

(i) Elizabeth Vautier wife of Philip Poingdestre, both godparents to Philip Benest's son, Philip, in 1748, and (ii) Jane Vautier, wife of Francis de la Cour, both godparents to Philip Benest's son, Francis, in 1744. They had a son, Philip de la Cour, baptized at St. Laurence's, 10 December 1747, to whom Philip

Benest and his wife, Sarah Vautier, were godparents. Sarah Vautier, may also have had a brother, the father of Jane Vautier who became the first wife of Philip Benest, son of Philip Benest by the said Sarah Vautier.

This Sarah Benest, *née* Vautier, died before 18 December 1784, when her property was divided. By her, Philip Benest had issue:—

- (i) Philip, buried at St. Laurence's, 27 August 1741 (? 1744).
- (ii) John Benest, born 1737, of whom hereafter.
- (iii) Joshua, baptized at St. Laurence's, 19 October 1740 (Godparents:—John Benest and Mary, his daughter); buried at St. Laurence's, 29 August 1741 (? 1744).
- (iv) Sarah, baptized at St. Laurence's, 17 October 1742 (Godparents:—Abraham Benest and Sarah Gibaut).
- (v) Francis, baptized at St. Laurence's, 28 October 1744 (Godparents:—Francis de la Cour and Jane Vautier, his wife—see above). For him and his descendants see p. 31.
- (vi) Anne, baptized at St. Laurence's, 30 November 1746 (Godparents:—Philip Romeril and Anne Voisin, his wife).

She married 8 January 1785 at St. Laurence's, John Luce.

In 1786, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to her nephew John, son of Philip Benest.

On 17 October 1792, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to John, son of Philip de Ste. Croix by Mary de Ste. Croix, his wife.

- (vii) Philip, baptized at St. Laurence's, 18 December 1748 (Godparents:—Philip Poingdestre and Elizabeth Vautier, his wife—see above).

For him and his descendants see p. 33.

- (viii) Elizabeth, baptized at St. Laurence's, 28 July 1751 (Godparents:—William Sorsoleil and Dem^{me} Elizabeth Hue).

She married 3 April 1779 at St. Saviour's, John Cailleteau, of St. Helier's.

In 1773, she was godmother to her nephew, George, son of John Benest.

In 1784, she is mentioned as the wife of John Cailleteau in the "*Partage*" of her father's property. In 1788, she and her husband John "Calletot" were godparents at St. Laurence's to her niece, Jane, daughter of Philip Benest.

In July 1792, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to her niece, Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Benest.

In September 1792, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to her niece, Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Benest.

In 1801, her grand-nephew, Charles Bisson (son of Philip Bisson by Elizabeth Benest, his wife) had as godmother his aunt Elizabeth "Benest."

- (ix) Jane, baptized at St. Laurence's, 25 August 1754 (Godparents:—Abraham Bisson and Dem^{me} Jane Remon.)

In 1784, she is described as the wife of Francis Luce (see *Registre Public*, Book 67, fol. 129).

Philip Benest married secondly Jane Aubin, and by her had a daughter:—

- (x) Mary, a minor in 1784 (see *Registre Public*, Book 67, fol. 129).

On 18 December 1784, Philip Benest divided his property among his children. The "*Partage*" is in the *Registre Public*, Book 67, fol. 129. The second surviving son, Francis, received a house near the Carrefour Sélous in St. Laurence's, his father reserving unto himself the right of living in it until his death. From the "*Généalogie*" it would appear that this house was the same which Philip's great-grandfather, Peter Benest, received in 1657, and that in 1808 it was still in the hands of the descendants of this Francis Benest.

THE BENESTS OF ST. HELIER'S.

AS shewn above, three of the sons of Philip Benest (son of John, son of Peter, son of Peter, the third son of Philip, son of Noel, son of Noel, son of John Benest), founded fresh branches of the family, of which the senior branch is that of St. Helier's springing from Philip's eldest surviving son:—

IX.—JOHN BENEST, whose birth in 1737 is the first entry in the Family Bible, and reads:—

"Jean Benest fils Ph. & de Sara Vautier sa feme ne le 25 jour de May 1737 au Vieux Stile qui est a present le 5 juin, et presenté au Batême le 16 par M^r. Jean Langlois et M^{me} Rachel Le Cras, qui apres fut la feme du d^e S^r Langlois."

The entry of his marriage, in 1767, with Mary Le Breton, occurs in the registers of St. Helier's:—

"M^e Jean Benest de la Paroisse de St. Laurent & M^{se} Marie Le Breton de la Paroisse de St. Helier furent mariés ensemble le Cinquieme jour de Mars Mille sept cent Soixante Sept."

She was the daughter of Charles Le Breton by Mary Horman, his wife, and was baptized at St. Helier's 23 October 1743 (Godparents:—Francis Le Clerc and Esther Le Clerc, his sister).

On 28 November 1784, John Benest and Mary Le Breton, his wife, were godparents at St. Laurence's to his nephew, Philip Benest, son of Philip.

On 18 December 1784, he received in his father's "*Partage*" the family house which his father had inherited in 1783 from his nephew, but John Benest had to pay his father forty livres old currency *per annum* for it.

In 1794, 1796 and 1800 respectively he was godfather to his grandchildren:—Elizabeth Bisson, John Coutanche and John Bisson. In 1799 he was godfather to his two grandchildren John Benest and Mary Elizabeth Wright.

On 1 March 1808, he wrote the "*Généalogie*" being then nearly 71 years old.

In 1818 and May 1821 respectively, he was godfather to his great grandchildren Edward Mauger and Jane-Matilda Benest.

As already shewn, it is to him that we are indebted for practically all the entries in the Family Bible. He evidently kept all his faculties until his end as the last entry in his handwriting refers to a baptism which occurred only four months before his death. He survived both his sons and died in 1821, aged 84, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Helier's:—

“Mons^r Jean Benest, Sen^r, fut enterré le troisième d'Octobre mil huit cent vingt-un.”

We are told that his grandson, John Benest, caused the "*Clameur d'Haro*" to be called over his grave when the authorities proposed to desecrate it by either constructing a new street or widening an old one at the expense of that portion of the churchyard in which he had been buried. A large oil-painted portrait of this venerable old gentleman is now in the possession of the Rev. John-William Benest, his great grandson. It is unfortunately too indistinct to permit of re-production in these notes.

By his wife, Mary Le Breton, he had issue:—

- (i) Mary, born 9 May, baptized 15 May 1767 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—Francis Benest and Elizabeth Mahaut); died 28 June, buried 1 July 1771, at St. Helier's.
- (ii) Elizabeth, born 8 March, baptized 16 March 1769 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—Edward Patriarche and Elizabeth Patriarche, wife of Nicholas Messervy). In 1799, she was godmother to her niece, Mary-Elizabeth Wright.

She married Philip Bisson, and had issue:—

- (i) Elizabeth Bisson, born 14 March, baptized 3 April 1794 (Godparents:—John Benest and Anne Benest, grandfather and aunt respectively of the child).
- (ii) Philip Bisson, born 8 February, baptized 26 February 1796 (Godparents:—Philip Lys and Mary Messervy, his wife).
- (iii) George Bisson, born 9 September, baptized 1 Oct. 1797 (Godparents:—the child's father and his aunt, Mary Benest).
- (iv) Mary Bisson, born 22 January, baptized 8 February 1799 (Godparents:—Samuel Wriglit and Mrs. Crofton, widow of an Officer in the Army).
- (v) John Bisson, born 25 February, baptized 28 February 1800 (Godparents:—John Benest the child's grandfather representing John Benest, the child's uncle, and Jane Le Geyt, wife of the last-named).
- (vi) Charles Bisson, born 2 March, baptized 11 March 1801 (Godparents:—John Benest, son of Francis, and the child's aunt, Elizabeth Benest).
- (vii) Dumaresq Bisson, born 30 May, baptized 21 June 1803 (Godparents:—his father and mother).
- (viii) William-Stiles Bisson, born 20 June, baptized 12 August 1805 (Godparents:—John Stiles, Captain of the frigate "*Alcmène*," "qui été à cet Epoque sur la Rade à Jersey." and Charles De la Garde, Junior, representing William Home and his wife, Caroline-Mary Home).
- (ix) Couteur, born 13 June, baptized 26 July 1809 (his godparents were:—John Le Couteur and Dumaresq, his wife).
- (x) Edward, born 11 March, baptized 21 July 1811.

(iii) John Benest, of whom hereafter.

(iv) George, born 13 February, baptized 26 February 1773 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—his father and his aunt, Elizabeth Benest, representing their distant cousins, George Benest and Elizabeth Hamon, his wife, "qui le Mauvai tems empecha de Venir a tems pour le Bâtem.") Under date 9 August 1815, in the registers of St. Helier's, is the entry of the burial of a

"Monsr George Benest fils Jean."

(v) Mary, born 27 January, baptized 8 February 1775 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—Peter Mauger and Mary Marett, his wife). She died 14 April 1775.

(vi) Anne, born 7 May, baptized 15 May 1776 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—Francis Langlois and Anne Payn, who shortly afterwards married Richard Le Feuvre).

She was godmother to her niece, Elizabeth Bisson, in 1794.

On 2 January 1796, she married at St. Helier's, John Coutanche, and had issue:—

- (i) John Coutanche, born 21 September, baptized 25 September 1796 (Godparents:—John Benest and Mary Benest, grandfather and aunt respectively of the child).
 - (ii) Philip Coutanche, born 1799, and baptized on 29 May of that year (Godparents:—his parents).
 - (iii) a son, born 3 July 1800.
 - (iv) Nancy Coutanche, born in London, 29 November 1802.
- (vii) Mary, born 16 July, baptized 29 July 1778 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—John Richardson and his second wife, Mary Chevallier).

In 1796 and 1797 respectively, she was godmother to her nephews, John Coutanche and George Bisson. On 15 December 1797, she married at St. Helier's, Samuel Wright (who, we understand, died at St. John's Rectory). In 1799, he was godfather to his wife's niece, Mary Bisson.

In May 1820, she was godmother to her granddaughter, Mary Mauger.

They had issue:—

- (i) Samuel Wright, born 1 February, baptized 4 February 1801 (Godparents:—Nicholas Le Quesne and Frances Neel, his wife).
 - (ii) Mary-Elizabeth Wright, born 5 June, baptized 26 June 1799 (Godparents:—John Benest and Elizabeth Benest, grandfather and aunt respectively of the child).
- She married Edward Mauger (son of . . . Mauger by Jane Le Brocq, his wife), and had issue:—
- (i) Edward Mauger, born 21 July, baptized 20 September 1818 (Godparents:—John Benest, his great grandfather, and Jane Le Brocq, his grandmother).
 - (ii) Mary Mauger, born 13 May, baptized 21 May 1820 (Godparents:—John Mauger and Mary Benest, uncle and grandmother respectively of the child).
- (viii) Jane, born 7 May, baptized 26 May 1780 at St. Helier's (Godparents:—Francis Ydan and Jane Durell, his wife).

She died on 8 November 1780.

X.—JOHN BENEST, (eldest son of John, son of Philip), was born 25 February and baptized at St. Helier's, 6 March, 1771. The entry of his baptism in the church registers reads —

“Jean fils de M^e Jean Benest & de M^e Marie Le Breton sa femme fut baptizé le sixieme jour de Mars Mille Sept Cents septante un, M^r Jean Langlois & M^e Rachel Le Cras, sa femme, l'arrain & Marraine.”

His godparents were those who had stood for his father thirty-four years previously, which curious fact is noted in the Family Bible.

In 1797, he married Jane, second daughter and eventual co-heiress of Philip Le Geyt-*dit*-Rauvet, of St. Saviour's, by Jane Mourant, his wife.

Jane Le Geyt's ancestry is to be found in our pamphlet "A Short Account of the Le Geyt-*dit*-Rauvet Family, of St. Saviour's," on page 16 of which her name occurs.*

For her descent (through the Pelliers, Richardsons, Dumaresqs, Lemprieres, De Carterets, de Albinis and the Earls of Huntingdon) from the Dukes of Normandy, see the "Genealogical Magazine" for 1900 and 1901.

She was baptized 11 January 1776 and died in 1803.

In 1800, John Benest and Jane Le Geyt, his wife, were godparents to their nephew, John Bisson.

On 25 November 1818, he was godfather to his granddaughter, Mary-Elizabeth Benest, who is still living.

He died in 1819 (during the lifetime of his father) and was buried at St. Helier's on 26 May 1819, the entry in the church registers reading as follows:—

"Mons^r Jean Benest, Jun^r, fut enterré le vingt-sixieme Mai, mil huit cent dix neuf."

The "*Partage*" of his property is recorded in the *Registre Public* (Book 127, fol. 65 to 68) and is dated 17 July 1819, from it we see that besides his house in La Motte Street, he had another, No 12 on the Quay.

On 19 August 1819, Administration of the goods of John Benest, Junior, late of Jersey, widower, Merchant, deceased, was granted to John Benest (the Younger) his son and next of kin. Sworn at £600 [presumably only so far as his goods in England were concerned], see Somerset House records.

It will be seen from the last four paragraphs that the note "*ob. avant 1803*" placed against his name in the Le Geyt pedigree published by the Société Jersiaise (29th Bulletin, p. 250) is incorrect.

John Benest and Jane Le Geyt, his wife, had issue only one son and one daughter:—

(i) John, born 1799; of whom hereafter.

(ii) Jane, born 16 November, baptized 10 December 1800 (Godparents:—Peter Simonette, also Anne and Mary Le Geyt, aunts of the child. Peter married Anne in 1805).

* Those who possess copies of the Le Geyt pamphlet are requested to alter the word "*Publique*" (on page 12, line 13, and page 14, line 11) into "*Public*."

She married on 25 May 1818 James-Ryan Smyth,³ a native of Ireland. He joined the 15th Foot 3 September 1812 and retired on half pay in 1817. His age was 67 at his death on 1 November 1855. A miniature portrait of him is in the possession of Miss G. M. Bernau. His wife (whose miniature portrait is in the possession of Miss Benest, of "Sid Court," Redhill) died childless on 15 April 1856, and lies buried with her husband in the churchyard of St. Saviour's. As will be seen later, her "*Partage*" is recorded in the *Registre Public*, Book 216, fol. 27.

XI.—JOHN BENEST, (only son of John, eldest son of John), was born 5 February and baptized at St. Helier's 13 February 1799, the entry in the church register reading:—

"Jean fils de Mons^r Jean Benest & de D^{ne} Jeanne Le Geyt sa femme fut baptisé le treisieme Jour de Fevrier mil sept cent quatrevingt dix neuf Mons^r Jean Benest grandpere parain & D^{ne} Jeanne Mourant femme de Mons^r Philippe Le Geyt, grandmere, & D^{ne} Marie Le Geyt, tante, marraines."

He married on 17 January 1818 Mary-Elizabeth Millais, elder daughter of John Millais by his wife, Sarah-Mary Matthews, who was the daughter of William Matthews by Mary Luce, his wife. Mary-Elizabeth Millais (who was aunt to the late Sir John-Everett Millais, Baronet, President of the Royal Academy, etc.) was born 27 January and baptized at St. Helier's 28 February 1798. She died in London 26 January 1876, on the eve of her 78th birthday, and is buried at Highgate. She was third cousin to her husband through his mother (*née* Le Geyt) and her great grandmother (also *née* Le Geyt). By her, John Benest had twelve children. He died 14 October 1855 (not "1865" as stated, through a printer's error, in the "Pedigree of the Benest Family of Jersey.") In the *Registre Public* (Book 216, fol. 27) will be found the "*Partages*" of his and his sister's property.

Large oil-painted portraits of him and his wife are now in the possession of the Rev. John-William Benest, their eldest son. Like the portrait of John Benest's grandfather, his also is too indistinct to permit of re-production, but that of his wife will be found opposite page 28.

Their children were:—

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- (i) Mary-Ann, born at St. Helier's 6 November and baptized 25 November 1818 (Godparents:—John Benest, "Junior," her grandfather, and Sarah-Mary

³ For particulars about his relatives in Ireland, see "*Notes and Queries*," for 6 Decr. 1896, p. 451.

Millais, *née* Matthews, her grandmother). She is now living, unmarried, at "Sid Court," Redhill, co. Surrey, after having resided for many years at No. 41 York Terrace, Regent's Park, London.

- (ii) Jane-Matilda, born at St. Helier's 30 June, baptized in private 12 July 1820, and in the church on 4 May 1821 (Godparents:—John Benest, her great grandfather, and Jane Smyth, *née* Benest, her aunt).

She married at St. Helier's on 8 April 1844; William Janvrin (born 17 February 1814; died 24 December 1871; buried with his wife at Highgate; he was a brother of Louisa-Mary Janvrin, mentioned on p. 30) and, dying in London on 25 August 1853, ten days after the birth of her son, left issue:—

(i) Mary-Elizabeth Janvrin, living unmarried at "Sid Court," Redhill.

(ii) Alice-Jane Janvrin, living unmarried at "Sid Court," Redhill.

(iii) Anna-Louisa Janvrin, died unmarried at York Terrace, Regents' Park, London.

An Altar to her memory has been erected in Trinity Church, Portland Road, London.

(iv) Laura-Ann Janvrin, living unmarried at "Sid Court," Redhill.

(v) William-Langston-Benest Janvrin, born in London 15 August 1853. M.A. Clare College, Cambridge; Deacon, 1878; Priest, 1879; curate of St. Saviour's, Fitzroy-square, London, W., 1878-81, of Sherrington, co. Bucks., 1881-2; chaplain of E. Riding asylum and perp. cur. in Beverley Minster, co. Yorks., 1882-91; vicar of Southwold, co. Suffolk, 1891-3; chaplain of the Union and Industrial School from 1894, of the General Hospital, Hereford from 1899; vicar from 1893 of St. Peter's, Hereford.

He married at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, on 12 June 1879, Emily-Maud-Madeleine Beavis, born in London 10 September 1861. Their children are:—

(i) Reginald-Beavis-Le Breton Janvrin, born in London, 11 March 1880. Living, unmarried.

(ii) Claud-William Janvrin, born at Sherrington, co. Bucks., 11 April 1881. Living, unmarried.

(iii) Ralph-Benest Janvrin, born at Beverley, 12 September 1884. Living, unmarried.

(iv) Madeleine-Millais Janvrin, born at Beverley, 20 January 1886. Living, unmarried.

- (iii) Anna-Maria, born at St. Helier's 12 December 1821; died at Portswood 1 July 1879; buried at Highfield, Southampton.

She married at St. Helier's 17 January 1842, George Everett, M.D., (born at Heytesbury, co. Wilts 5 September 1810; died 6 March 1862 at Portswood, being buried with his wife at Highgate; a brother of William-Marvyn Everett who married George Everett's wife's aunt, Anna-Maria Millais), and had issue:—

- (i) Mary-Hart Everett, born at New Norfolk, Tasmania, 20 April 1843; now living (unmarried) at Shipley, Bradford, co. York.
- (ii) John-Hart Everett, born at Ross, Tasmania, 20 June 1845; died there on 27 November 1853.
- (iii) George-Hart Everett, born at Norfolk Island, 17 April 1847; died there on 3 February 1849.
- (iv) Alfred-Hart Everett, born at Norfolk Island, 17 October 1848; died (unmarried) in London, 18 June 1898. He was a "Resident" of the Sarawak Government Service.
- (v) Harold-Hart Everett, born at Norfolk Island 20 March 1850; now living (unmarried), an Engineer, at Sarawak.
- (vi) Annie-Hart Everett, born at Ross, Tasmania, 9 Dec. 1852; died at Shipley, Bradford, co. York, 27 January 1879.

She married at Portswood, 15 December 1874, Stephen-Philip Unwin, Wool Merchant. (born 28 April 1835; now living at Shipley) and had issue:—

- (i) Maurice-Everett Unwin, born at Shipley 18 January 1876; now living, unmarried. An Engineer.
 - (ii) Arthur-Bright Unwin, born at Shipley, 15 July 1877; died there on 30th of same month.
 - (iii) William-Herbert Unwin, born at Shipley, 17 January 1879; died there on 22nd of same month.
 - (vii) Arthur-Hart Everett, born at Ross, Tasmania, 6 January 1855; died in Jersey 24th June the same year.
 - (viii) Frederick-Hart Everett, born at St. Helier's 16 October 1856; now living at Willesden Green.
- He married at Hampstead, 6 August 1890, Alice-Kate Duncum (now living) and has issue:—
- (i) Frederick-Harold Everett, born at West Kensington, 22 May 1891; living.
 - (ii) Leslie-Frank Everett, born at Tatsfield, co. Surrey, 20 September 1896; living.

- (iv) John-William Benest, born 1823; of whom hereafter.
- (v) Edward-Everett Benest, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers; born at St. Helier's, 21 August 1824; died at Brixton, London, 24 November 1901; buried at Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting.

He married firstly, at Gillingham, co. Norfolk, 13 October 1852, Esther-Shaw Parker (eldest surviving daughter of Thomas Parker, of Gillingham, by Esther Shaw, his wife, who was a sister of Mary-Ann Wilson, *née* Shaw, mentioned on p. 29). She was born at No. 19 Milk Street, St. Laurence Jewry, London, 30 July 1828, and died at Clements Hill, New Catton, Norwich, 11 May 1855, being buried at Christ Church, New Catton; letters of administration of her property being granted to her husband 5 October 1859. Her only child:—

- (i) Edward-Benest-Shaw Benest, Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Fellow of the Society of Arts and Member of the Instituto Polytechnica [Institution of Civil Engineers] de Rio Janeiro.

He was born at Catton, Norwich, 30 July 1853, and married firstly on 3 August 1882 at Rio, Flora MacKinnell (daughter of Alfred MacKinnell by Eliza-Ann Heatherly, his wife), born 1 October 1864, died at Earl's Court, London, 1 August, 1895, having had issue:—

- (i) Esther-Lilian, born at Rio, 4 June 1883; living, unmarried.
 (ii) Alfred-Edward-Diniz, born at Clapham, 7 June 1884; died at Rio in January 1885.
 (iii) Frank-Millais Benest, born at Clapham, 8 September 1885; living, unmarried.
 (iv) Isabel-Violet, born at Rio, 23 January 1887; living, unmarried.
 (v) Edward-Ernest Benest, born at Westminster, 9 October 1891; living.

Edward-Benest-Shaw Benest married secondly on 1 July 1897 at St. Andrew's, Deal, co. Kent, Annie-Sophia Rippin (eldest daughter of Daniel Rippin, of Wartnaby, co. Leic., by his wife, Mary-Jane Poole, of Ingoldsby, co. Linc.

Edward-Everett Benest, married secondly on 29 April 1869 at Rio, Mary Lucas (daughter of Robert Lucas by Mary Williams, his wife), born in Liverpool 19 December 1847; now living at Brixton. By her he had issue:—

- (ii) Francis-Edward Benest, born at Liverpool 12 July 1871; now living at Brixton.

He married on 21 April, 1904 at Ealing, Charlotte-Elizabeth-Maud Ingram (daughter of the Rev. David-Caldicott Ingram, late of Blairgowrie, N.B., by Elizabeth-Ann White, his wife.)



MARY ELIZABETH BENEST,
née MILLAIS
(Born, 1798 ; Died, 1876).
For whom see page 25.

(iii) Philip-Millais Benest, born at Bromley, co. Kent, 25 March 1873; now living at Pendleton, near Manchester.

He, married on 24 September 1901 at St. Philip's, Buckingham Palace Road, London, Alice-Mary Hurst (daughter of George Hurst, late of Warwick Street, Pimlico, by Abigail Burdett, his wife).

(vi) James-Smyth Benest, Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, was born at St. Helier's 26 March 1826, and died at Norwich 29 February 1896, being buried on 5 March at Eaton Church, Norwich.

He married at Eaton Church, Norwich, 30 July 1857, Emily-Susannah Wilson (daughter of Robert Wilson, of Norwich, by his wife, Mary-Ann Shaw, who was a sister of Esther Parker, *née* Shaw, mentioned on p. 28). She was born 1823 (?1825), and, surviving her husband, to whom she bore no children, died at Norwich on 28 April 1898, being buried at Eaton Church there.

(vii) George-Henry Benest, born at St. Helier's 20 August 1827; drowned off the coast of Africa 24 September 1851; he was unmarried.

(viii) Ellen-Octavia, born at St. Helier's 26 February 1829; died about 1838; buried at Green Street, St. Helier's.

(ix) Elizabeth-Mary, born at St. Helier's 17 December 1830; died 27 July 1831.

(x) Philip-Le Geyt Benest, born at St. Helier's 16 July 1832; died *s.p.* 21 June 1865; buried at Shanghai, where his tombstone describes him as "Philip *La* Geyt Benest," which is incorrect. His will was proved at Somerset House in 1865. At the time of his death he was Master of the ship "Highflyer."

Shortly before his death he had married Charlotte, *née* Begbie, widow of a Mr. Todd. She married thirdly a Mr. Harding. Her only child was a girl by her first husband. Mrs. Harding died some years ago, in Rome.

(xi) Isabel-Mary, born at St. Helier's 31 December 1833; living since April 1901 (when she left St. Helier's) at "Sid Court," Redhill, co. Surrey.

She married on 28 April 1863 her first cousin (once removed) Thomas Millais, who was born 6 July 1813 and died *s.p.* 1 June 1882.

Mrs. Millais was the last of this branch of the Benest family to leave Jersey.

- (xii) Mary-Elizabeth, born at St. Helier's 20 July 1836 ; died at Lee, co. Kent, 13 October 1891, buried at Lee Cemetery.

She married at All Saints' Church, Belvedere, co. Kent, 12 February 1868, Henry-Augustus Bernau, for whose ancestry (and a more detailed account of his children and grandchildren than is given below) see our pamphlet "Genealogy of the Bernau Family of Stolp," February, 1906, pp. 7 and 8.

Their children were :—

- (i) Edith-Mary Bernau, who is married to the Rev. G. H. Moule.
- (ii) William-Henry Bernau, married to Charlotte-Augusta Moule, (second daughter of the Venerable Archdeacon A. F. Moule, not "eldest" daughter, as is incorrectly stated in the pamphlet just quoted), by whom he has issue :—
 - (i) Dorothy-Cecil Bernau, born 1904.
 - (ii) Hugh-Arthur-Moule Bernau, born 1905.
- (iii) Frederick-John Bernau.
- (iv) Herbert-James Bernau.
- (v) Gertrude-Maria ("Daisy") Bernau.
- (vi) The compiler of these notes, married to Rosa-Emily Bennion, by whom he has had issue :—
 - (i) Rosa-Mary ("May") Bernau, born 1903.
 - (ii) Rowland-Le Geyt Bernau, born 5 March 1906, at Walton-upon-Thames, where he died on 7 March.
- (vii) Evelyn-May Bernau, *ob. juv.*

XII.—REVEREND JOHN-WILLIAM BENEST, (eldest son of John, only son of John), born at St. Helier's 31 March 1823. Trinity College, Dublin, B.A. 1848 ; Deacon 1849 ; Priest 1850. Rector of Little Cressingham, near Watton, co. Norfolk, since 1871. Formerly curate of Alderney 1850-'54 ; of Huddersfield 1854-'57 ; of Burnham Deepdale 1857 and '58 ; of All Saints', Belvedere, 1865 and '66 ; of Bidborough, co. Kent, 1866-'71.

He married firstly at St. Saviour's, Jersey, on ... May 1851, Louisa-Mary Janvrin (a sister of the William Janvrin mentioned on p. 26), who died *s.p.* at Southborough, Kent, on.....

He married secondly at St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft, on 27 June 1876, Henrietta-Charlotte Reynolds (daughter of the Rev. Charles Reynolds, Rector of Great Fransham and Little Brandon, co. Norfolk), by whom he has issue :—

- (i) John-Langston-Millais Benest, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William-Noel-Le Geyt Benest, born at Little Cressingham, 6 December 1881 ; now living, unmarried, at Little Cressingham.

XIII.—JOHN-LANGSTON-MILLAIS BENEST (elder son of the Rev. John-William, eldest son of John), born at Little Cressingham 31 January 1879; now living, unmarried, at Anerley, London, S.E.; a solicitor in Watling Street, London, E.C.

JUNIOR BRANCHES.

AS mentioned on page 19, three of the sons of Philip Benest (son of John, son of Peter) founded fresh branches of the family. We have dealt fully with the descendants of his eldest surviving son, John, but it is not yet possible to give very full particulars of the two junior branches of this family. The notes contained in the two following paragraphs should, however, be of assistance to future genealogists interested in the Benest family.

DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS BENEST.

IX.—FRANCIS BENEST, (son of Philip, son of John), as mentioned on p. 19, was baptized at St. Laurence's 28 October 1744.

In 1767, he was godfather to his niece, Mary Benest (daughter of John), at St. Helier's.

In 1784, as we have already seen (p. 20), he was entitled, on the division of his father's property, to a house near the Carrefour Sélous in St. Laurence's, his father reserving unto himself the right of living in it until his death. From the "Généalogie" we learn that, in 1808, this house was still in the hands of his descendants.

In 1789, Francis Benest and his wife, Betty Cabot, are mentioned.

In 1791, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to his nephew Francis Benest, son of Philip by Jane Vautier, his wife.

In October 1793, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to Mally, daughter of John Vautier by Mary Marett, his wife.

In November 1793, they were godparents at St. Laurence's to Betty, daughter of Peter Cabot by Elizabeth Bisson, his wife.

Their children were :—

- (i) Peter, baptized at St. Laurence's 14 February 1790 (Godparents :—Peter Cabot, Elizabeth Bisson and Anne Cabot). In St. Laurence's Churchyard there is a tombstone (the only Benest one we could find there) reading :—

“ Ici repose le corps de Pierre Benest décédé le 22 Aout 1876 agé de 86 ans et six mois Comme aussi de Susanne Alexandre veuve du susdit décédée le 16 Mars 1885 agée de 80 ans.”

He may have been the father or grandfather of T. Moses Benest, now living with his sister at Carrefour Sélous, St. Laurenee's.

Mr. T. Moses Benest has not replied to our requests for information about his branch of the family.

- (ii) Elizabeth, baptized at St. Laurenee's 1 July 1792 (Godparents:—John Calleteau and Elizabeth Benest, his wife).
- (iii) Jane, baptized at St. Laurenee's 4 October 1795 (Godparents:—Benjamin Bertaut and Jane Cabot, his wife).
- (iv) John. Miss Benest, of Redhill, (for whom see p. 25), and several of her brothers and sisters, remember they had cousins, Benests, who, for the purpose of distinction, were always referred to as the children of “Jean fils François.” The following is all that we have been able to discover about this John and his descendants:—

X.—JOHN BENEST, (son of Francis, son of Philip), was in 1808 the godfather of Charles Bisson, the son of his first cousin, Elizabeth Bisson, *née* Benest.

Miss Benest, of Redhill, remembers that two unmarried daughters of this John Benest kept a school at Havre. They were, she thinks, named Harriet and Mary-Anne. Both are now dead, but one was still living at Havre in 1882. Another daughter, named Charlotte, died in Jersey, unmarried, after 1882, and was the last survivor of her generation. Of John's sons, she thinks one was named Henry and that he kept a school at Grève de Lecq, Jersey. Among others, there was also a brother, Captain “Thomas” Benest, who is said to have fought in the Carlist Wars, and who, as master-mariner, is said to have had other interesting experiences into which, however, this is not the place to enter. It is said that he changed his name to Bennett and lived the last years of his life in seclusion at St. Helier's. Be this as it may, this branch of the family is said to be now represented by Henry Benest (son of Philip), now of “The Glebe,” Blackheath, London, S.E., recently of No. 85 Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, co. Kent. In 1896, of Campbell Road, Bow, London, E. In 1876, of Victoria Park Road, Hackney.

CHAS. A. BERNAU.

"PENDEEN,"

BOWES ROAD,

WALTON-ON-THAMES.

13th July 1907.

William R. Stackhouse, Esq.,

Suite 618 Drexel Building, Phila., Pa., U.S.A.,

My Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your very kind letter of 1st inst. I am much gratified to find that my work meets with your approval. I feel that I am amply repaid for what was really a labour of love when I read the letters now reaching me from every quarter of the globe. I can assure you that it is a very pleasant thought that one has made hundreds of good friends within one year. Your letter makes me feel that I can also rank you among these.

This year I was too rushed for time to look after the advertisements properly and I would not trust it to an agent as I feared that I might find Somebody's Patent Pink Pills for Pale People included, and that would have broken my heart!

It is extremely good of you to offer to exchange a copy of your "Stackhouse" book for my two poor pamphlets, and I accept before you have time to think better of it. My pamphlets leave here by this mail.

May I invite you to enter your book in Part V next year, so that others may benefit as well as myself?

I see that the extracts from my correspondence on page 6 amused you. Will you believe me when I write that I did not print the real "gems" of the collection? There were some which were much more remarkable; in fact, too remarkable to be put into print! For instance, what do you think of a wife who could write the following letter?:-

"Mrs. writes to say that it is useless sending any further notices of books and publications that her husband used to love to collect, for he is suffering from softening of the brain, and can no longer take an interest in ANYTHING."

Let me add that the husband is, or was, a well-known cleric.

With kind regards, Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Chas. A. Bernay

You might let me know if you hear anything about the work mentioned as No. 5 under the heading of "Similar Publications." They said they were going to publish it at the end of April, but I have reason to think that it is not yet out. I want to see how much of my book they appropriate.

He married at Hackney on 22 January 1876, his cousin, Alice - Bertha - Henrietta - Viza Benest, daughter of John-Thomas Benest, master-mariner, by whom he has had a son and a daughter. The latter was married at Lee in 1897 or 1898. Mr. Henry Benest has not replied to our requests for information about his branch of the family.

DESCENDANTS OF PHILIP BENEST.

IX.—PHILIP BENEST, (son of Philip, son of John), as already stated on p. 19, was baptized at St. Laurence's 18 December 1748.

He is mentioned in 1784 in his father's "*Partage*." He married firstly Jane Vautier, and by her had issue:—

- (i) Philip Benest, baptized at St. Laurence's 28 November 1784 (Godparents:—John Benest and Mary Le Breton, his wife). He died before 1830 and his eldest daughter (? only child):—
 - (i) Mary Benest was a minor in 1830.
- (ii) John, baptized at St. Laurence's 15 December 1786 (Godparents:—John Luce and Anne Benest, his wife). He was living in 1830.
- (iii) Jane, baptized at St. Laurence's 14 December 1788 (Godparents:—John Calleteau and Elizabeth Benest, his wife). She evidently died before 1796.
- (iv) Francis, baptized privately 23 August 1791, baptized at St. Laurence's Church 4 September 1791 (Godparents:—Francis Benest and Betty Cabot, his wife). He was buried at St. Laurence's 6 September 1791.
- (v) Elizabeth, baptized at St. Laurence's 16 September 1792 (Godparents:—John Calleteau and Elizabeth Benest, his wife). She was living in 1830, being then the wife of John-Edward Querrée, son of John.
- (vi) Jane, baptized at St. Laurence's 25 September 1796 (Godparents:—John Le Gallais and Jane Remon, his wife).

Philip Benest, who died before 1819, married secondly Elizabeth Gallichan, who was living in 1830.



