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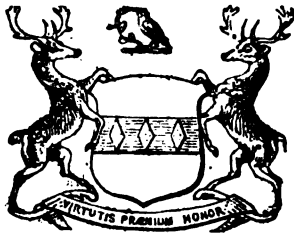
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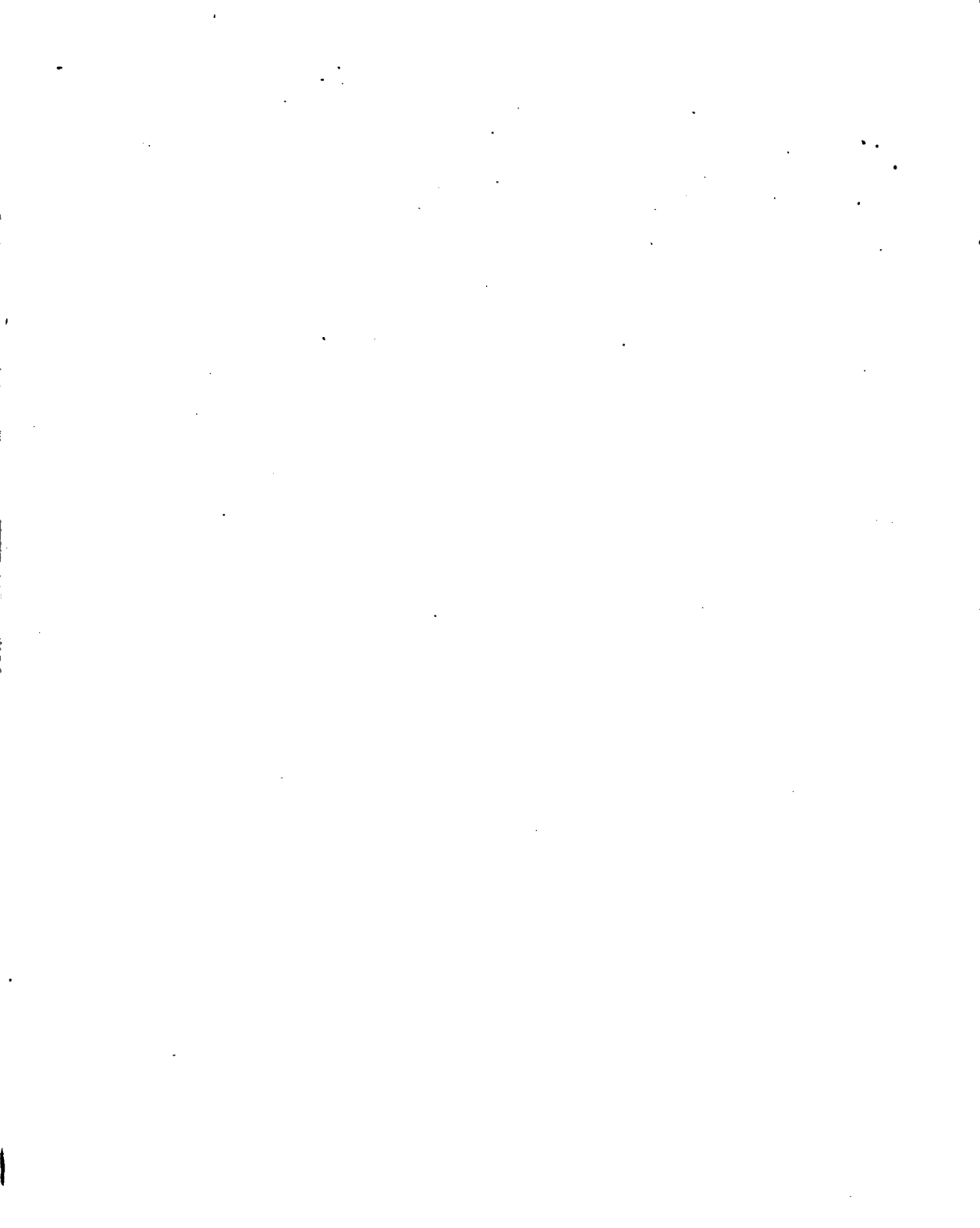
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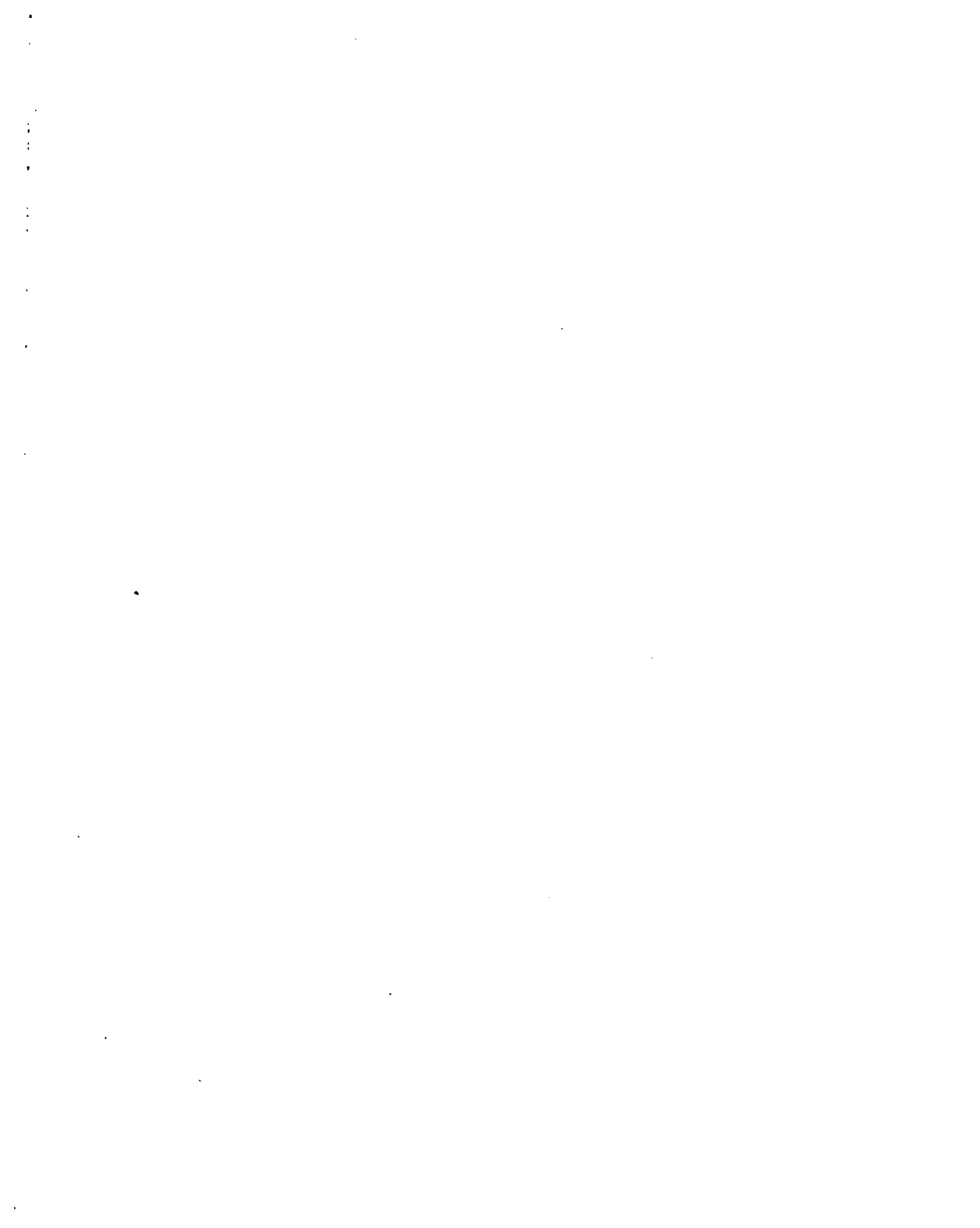
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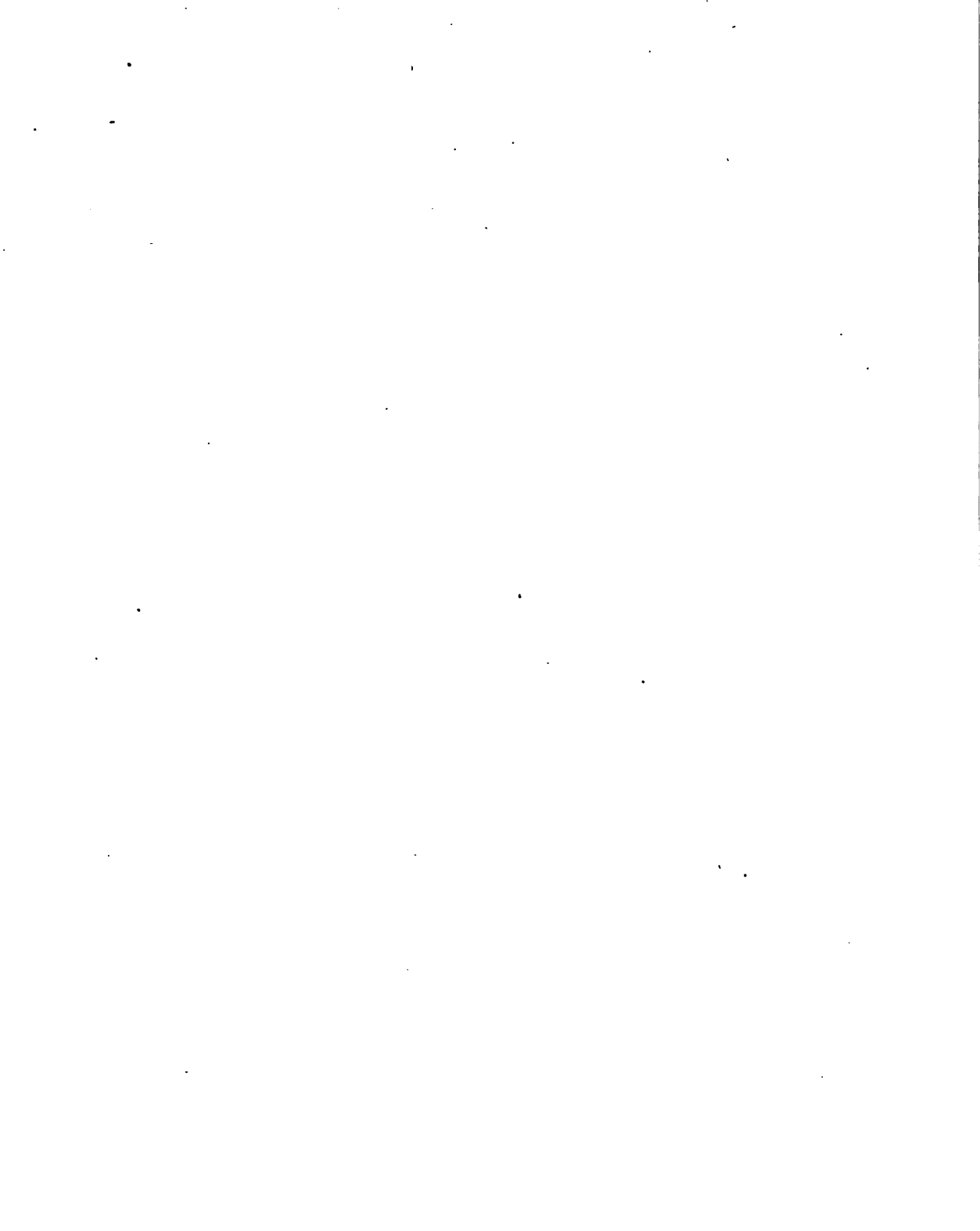
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*By Vandyke.]*

FIRST EARL OF DENBIGH.







○

SOME

HAPSBURGHS, FEILDINGS,

DENBIGHES AND DESMONDS.

BY

J. E. M. F.

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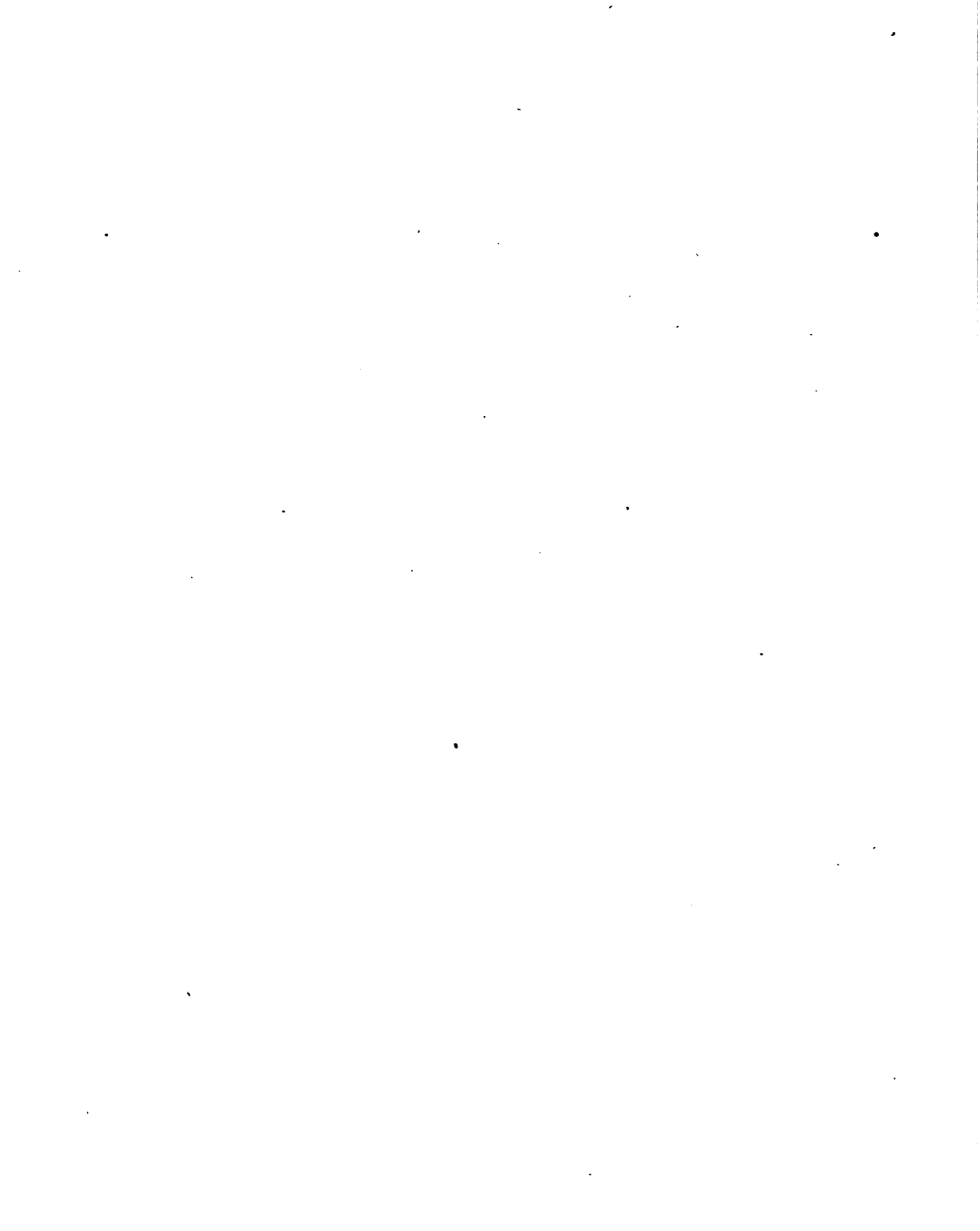
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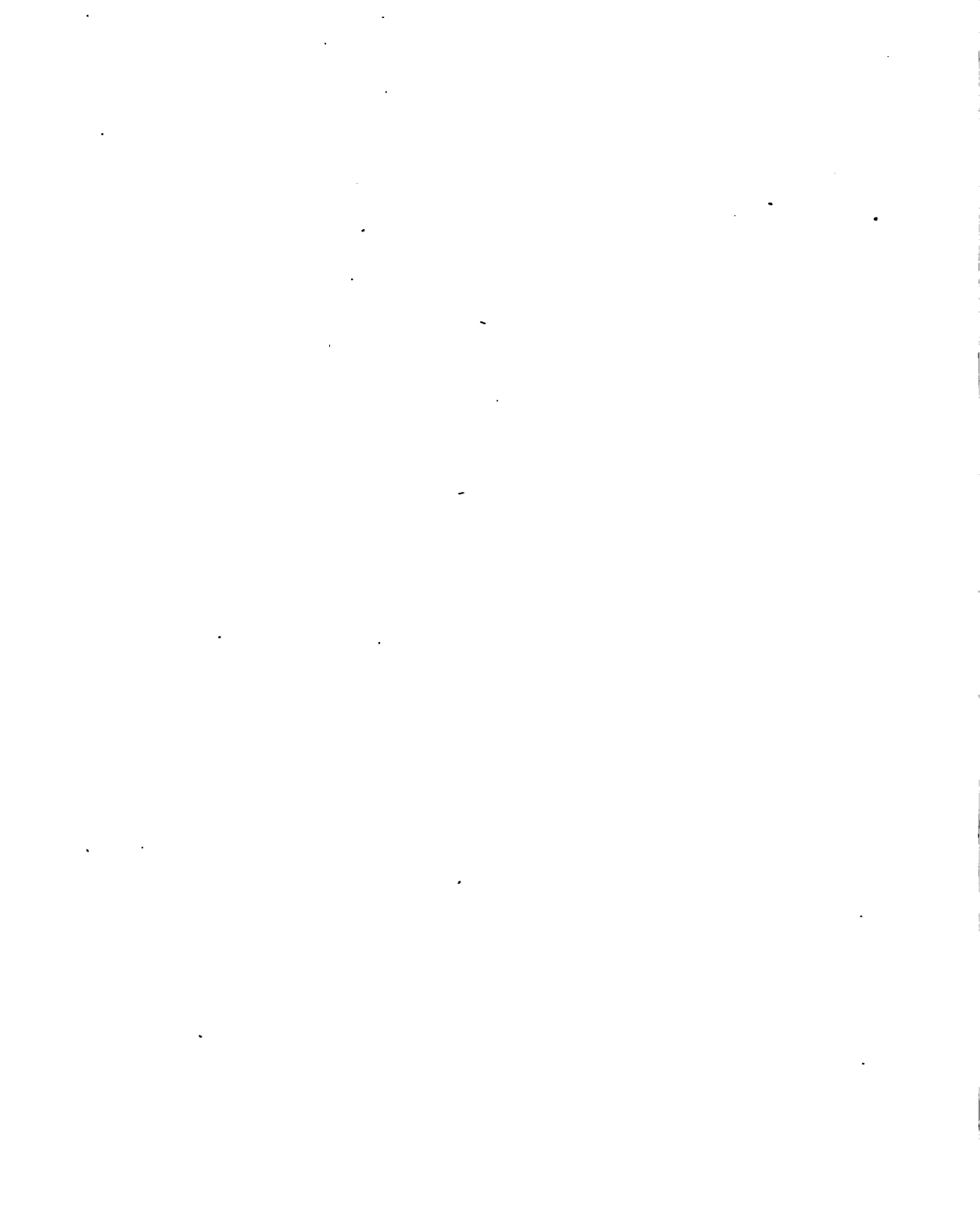
SOME HAPSBURGHS, FEILDINGS,  
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**CASTLE OF THE HAPSBURGHS.**

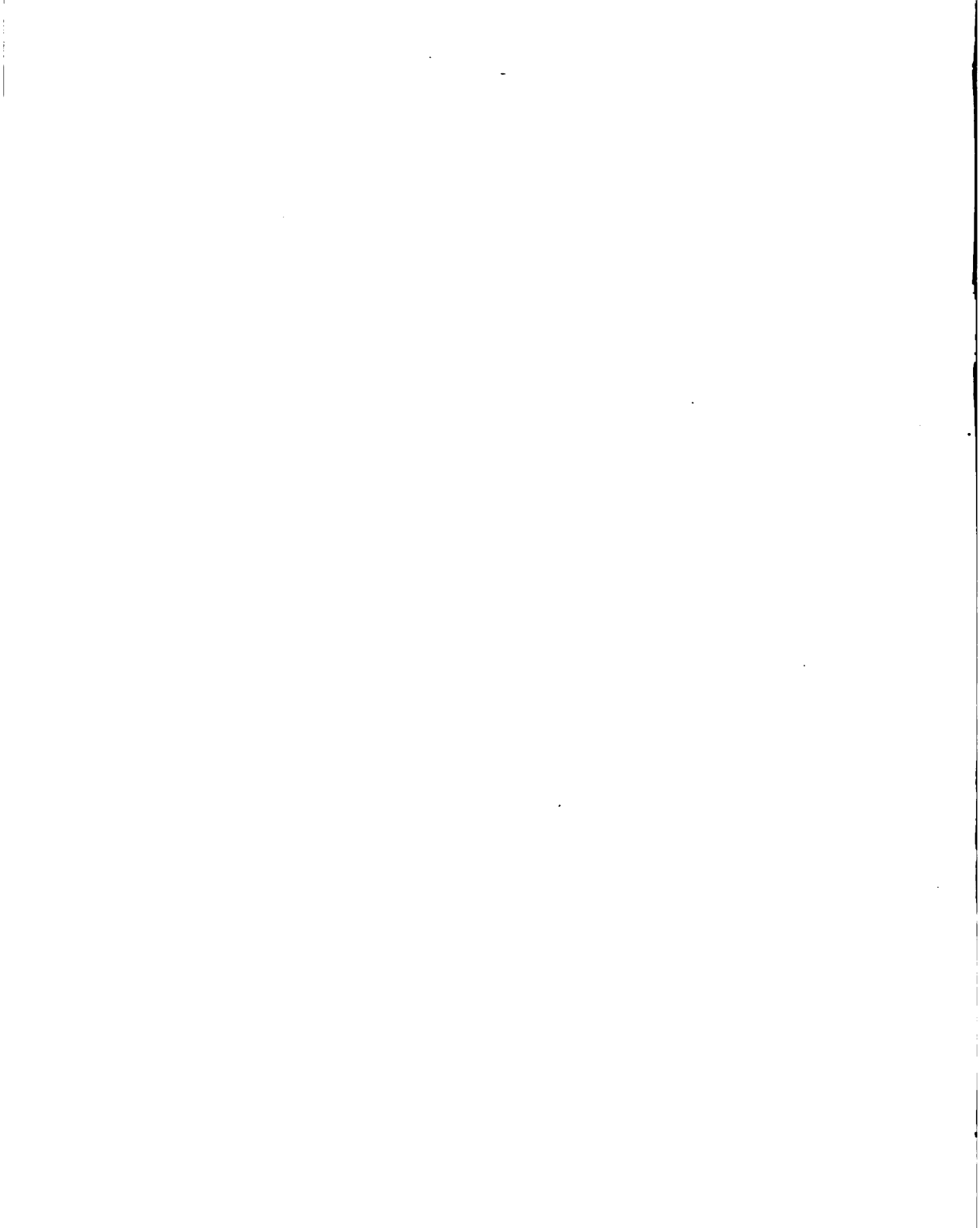
Built in 1020 by Werner, Bishop of Strassburgh, grandson of Guntram (The Rich),  
Count of Hapsburgh and Brisgan.







**CASTLE OF THE HAPSBURGHS**  
*(Second View).*





## SOME FACTS

CONCERNING THE FAMILY OF FEILDING—OR FIELDING.

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### *INTRODUCTION.*

[I]T has been said, "Don't talk of what you are going to do, but do it." I shall therefore humbly try to get together an unconventional collection of facts concerning the family of Feilding in general, and of "Henry Fielding" in particular, hoping that those whom it may concern will turn to these notes for information, which, if left uncollected, might remain un-recollected. One thought I want to carry out is this: to attempt to interest others in their families; and it will be a pleasure to me to minister to some, in my own small circle, who may not, I trust, consider such information, "ancient superstitions." One owes one's ancestors love and honour, and to keep their names unspotted.

To begin with, I shall give one or two quotations as to ancestry, by men of eminence.

The Lord Chancellor (Hatherly, *née* Sir Hardinge Gifford) says—"The History of England is the history

of its great families. I know it is the favourite object of those who have no definite opinions upon any subject to sneer at everything, but as Fielding says, 'The most contemptuous are always the most contemptible.' I find those men as a rule sneer at claims of descent, but my own opinion is, with regard to this subject, that it is a great factor in shaping Human Morality, for a man often determines not to be worse than his ancestors.

"I believe that this is a high-minded and right principle, viz., to feel responsibility when a high and noble descent of birth and worth is given us. Even amid the ruins of our ancestral homes and names, and though their art treasures, the accumulation of ages, with all-hallowed associations and memories may depart with their broad lands, still history remains, and records the achievements and the glory belonging to their past."

Sir Francis Galton says of ancestry—"The family tie has a real, as well as a sentimental significance. The world is beginning to perceive that the life of each individual is in some sense a prolongation of those of his ancestry; his character, his vigour, and, alas! his disease, are as a rule what theirs was; his faculties are only blends of ancestral qualities, but oftener aggregates. There are veins of resemblance showing out clearly, now here, now there; the life histories of ancestors are therefore more

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instructive to each man than are those of general history: they forewarn and instruct, besides encouraging, they are also prophetic as to us. If there is such a thing as natural birthright, I can conceive no birthright of equal importance to this, that a child should be instructed in the life and character of his ancestry.

“The man who has a knowledge of his descent is best fitted to enter on the battle of life, for he knows his own qualifications and endowments from studying theirs, and can therefore bend circumstances instead of being bent by them.”

As a rule, good blood has the peculiarity of helping its owner through a crisis; it contains a powerful nerve stimulant, which enables a man to throw aside obstacles and never to rest till his end is attained; and it is also true, that people cannot take from themselves the descent they have, nor give to themselves *that* they have not. A man excused himself for being drunk, before a magistrate, saying, “he was born so,” and there was truth in his plea.

Mark Twain humorously puts it, “Be very careful in choosing your parents”!

Everyone will say, “I am proud of my noble father” (if he has such), yet this very man will call it absurd that *you* should be proud of a *long line* of unstained forefathers, and cannot see the incentive such a line gives one

not to blot or break it. Privileges cannot give descent, only the lustre of history gives the *real* rank of true aristocracy.

To most people who begin the study of these by-corners of history, "Heraldry" and its twin "Genealogy," it becomes a fascination—even to some who have only an elementary belief in the fact of transmitted qualities. The toil is inspiring, to trace back step by step, generation by generation, the links which connect notable people to one parent heroic stock. A student of heraldry can hear the step of knights in mail, the clash of their swords, and see the pomp of their tournaments; and then follow them to their own village church, and behold their effigy tombs, inscribed with their love and their valour, their dames reposing by their side. Then what joy it is to establish one new fact, to place on an unshakable basis one old statement by some musty Parish Register!

It is said to be impossible to trace any purely English pedigree beyond the eleventh century, but it is not so in other countries.

The Heralds' College can show that many English squires are of Royal descent, and yet 40 out of 200 Peers are unable to get from that College any reliable founders for their family.

Heraldry was once called "the silly old business of silly old men," but for all that, it is a touching trait of poor human nature, still remaining, that most men desire to possess a grandfather, and love to have at least one seal with an engraving on it.

Aristotle says—"The man who in no way resembles his ancestors is a sort of monster, for in him Nature departs from her specific form, and this is the first step in degeneration."

Lord Beaconsfield says—"Honour should be attached to ancient ancestry; and a man is bound to be proud of it, if it has in any way contributed to the greatness of this great country."

Naysmith says—"Our history begins long before we are born; we represent the past influences of our race; our ancestors virtually live over again in us."

The great fact of Heredity is impressed upon everything human, and extends through all its elements and functions, its external and internal structure, as to its composition, determines the size of bones, and organs, the quality of nerves and tissues, and the size of the brain. We also know the physical influences and the moral; and so heredity contains the destiny of each family—each family has its own characteristics; its physical strength gives courage, and its weakness produces timi-

dity. The length and health of a man's life is the result of the principle of vitality received at birth, and this vitality survives bad climate and other influences.

Large hands are the inheritance of manual labour; small, of education; left-handedness and ambidexterity is also inherited. Acquired habits are transmitted; also writing, imagination, and memory. The two Senecas were famed for their memory; Coleridge had two sons and a daughter gifted with imagination. The Landseers and Bonheurs transmitted art tastes to several of their name, and in the Titian family were nine painters. The Bach family for 200 years produced musicians of first rank. Beethoven's father, grandfather, sister, and two sons were also famous in music. Bacon's parents and brothers were famed philosophers; also the Darwins in three generations.

Education only covers, but never extinguishes, a strong heredity—such as insanity, gambling, avarice. We come into the world fettered with innate tendencies that shape our ends; therefore let those who can, learn what to accept with gratitude and what to reject from their ancestry. With the hope of enlightening one family, I put together something of what is known of the idiosyncracies of the Fielding race and of their ancient lineage. From some of this race riches have taken wings, but here are riches

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for you, viz., the golden wealth of a glorious inheritance none can take, for are you not one with, and have you not your part in, the brave blood that conquered in many a fight? If you are fallen, or falling in your battle of life, rouse your faint heart and feel the blood of the Hapsburghs tingle in it, not with vulgar pride, but with self-respect; and when this emotion has become part of *your* character, teach it to your children, "speaking of it when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down and risest up; write it on the doorposts of thy house, and on thy gates," and when thy children say, what does this mean? say, it means—

"HONOUR IS THE REWARD OF VIRTUE."

JEAN E. M. FIELDING.





SOME  
HAPSBURGHS, FEILDINGS,  
DENBIGHS AND DESMONDS.

*FEILDING, Earl of Desmond and Denbigh.*

*(From LODGE'S "PEERAGE OF IRELAND," published in 1789).*

THIS family is derived from a very noble extraction, viz., the Counts of Hapsburgh, Lauffenburgh and Rheinfilden, who were the Counts Palatine in the reign of Henry III. of England.

The ancientness of their descent is manifest from divers authentic documents, viz., Memorandum in MS. written in the reign of the Edwards and Henrys (see NOTE A, page 11). Also an acquittance of same period (see NOTE B, page 13).

1st

GEOFFREY, Count of Hapsburgh, cousin to Rudolph, Emperor  
(1235) of Germany, was greatly oppressed by his cousin

B

the Emperor, so that he fled to England 1235, taking the name of Fildinge, or ffildinge, from his ancestral domain in Germany.

It appears that Geoffrey fought with great bravery under the banner of his master Henry III. of England, who held him in so great esteem that he bestowed upon him considerable estates, with their rents and fees. That he belonged to the house of Hapsburgh is also proved by a deed of attorney which was made at Munsterton, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, where Geoffrey is styled "Galfride Count de Hapsburgh et Domine de Rinfielding in Germany." Also a document empowering to deliver feizin of the manor of Munsterton and of one yard land in Lutterworth, which his mother, Matilda de Colville, sometime had. Also an acquittance dated at Westminster, 5th July, 12 Edward, made by Geoffrey, signed of Hapsburgh. Geoffrey the 1st left three sons—Geoffrey, John, and Thomas. (NOTES A and B.)

2nd

SIR GEOFFREY succeeded his father, and married Agnes, daughter of and heir to John Napton. His brother, Sir Robert Napton, married the heiress Alice, daughter of Richard de Munsterton of Munsterton, near Lut-

terworth, which property still (1789) belongs to this family.

3<sup>rd</sup>

SIR WILLIAM succeeded his father. He was knighted for good service to his king and country, and married Johanna, daughter and heir to William Prudhome, by his wife Juliana, daughter and heir of Robert de Newnham of Newnham Paddox, in Warwickshire, to which estate his son succeeded, and it has from that date been the seat of the Feilding family.

4<sup>th</sup>

SIR JOHN succeeded his father. He was knighted for his bravery in the French War, where he served under John, Duke of Bedford, in Edward the VI. reign; he married Margaret, daughter of William Purefoy of Drayton in Warwickshire. At this time they spelt their name Filding, as seen on windows at Lutterworth Church.

5<sup>th</sup>

SIR WILLIAM succeeded his father. He was so well affected to the house of Lancaster in the Civil Wars that Henry VI. no sooner regained the throne than he made him Sheriff of Cambridge and Huntingdon. He was slain at the battle of Tewkesbury, and buried

there. This battle was fought between Edward IV. and Henry VI., after which battle Queen Margaret was taken prisoner 1471. William married Agnes de Liz, daughter and heir of John de Liz (or Seyton) of the noble family of Earl of Northumberland and Huntingdon, and by her got the Lordship of the Martinshorp in Rutlandshire. She was also a blood descendant of the noble house of Vaux, Longueville, Bellers, and Mowbray. She was buried at Lutterworth, the seat of the ancient family. On the north window of that church are the arms of Filding and Seyton. One daughter married Edmond Verney, ancestor of Lord Willoughby and Broke.

6th

SIR EVERARD

(ob. 1515)

succeeded his father. Edward the IV. made him Sheriff of Warwick and Leicestershire. In 1487 he commanded the army of Henry VII. at the battle of Stoke. In 1497 he was victorious at the battle of Blackheath. On May 1501 he was made Knight of the Bath on the marriage of Prince Arthur, was appointed Custos Rotulorum of Leicestershire, in 1509 High Sheriff of Rutlandshire. In his will he requested that his body should be buried before the

altar of the Virgin at Blackfriars Church at Northampton. He married Jellis Russel.

7th

SIR WILLIAM

(ob. 1547)

succeeded his father. He acquired the lands of Mancaster and others in Warwickshire by exchange. Henry VIII. made him Sheriff of Rutlandshire, and knighted him. He raised forces of horses, archers, and gunners for Henry's wars in France and Scotland from his tenants, as is seen by several privy seals, and was greatly esteemed by Jane Seymour when he was but 29 years of age.

The Queen, on the birth of Prince Edward, sent him a special Privy Seal with the news. He fought with Earl Southampton for Henry VIII. supremacy over the Pope's rule. He married Elizabeth Poultney, daughter of Sir J. Poultney, of Misterton or Munsterton, in Leicestershire, in which church there is an effigy monument, in finest carved marble alabaster, to the Poultney family, who are ancestors to the Earls of Bath. Sir William and his wife, Elizabeth, lie buried in Monks Kirby Church. The name is spelt on the tomb "ffildinge." The effigy tomb is in the chancel. He is represented in armour, she in the dress of the time,

with the arms of their families impaled, and this memorial—

“ Here lieth the Body of Sir Wm. ffilding, Knight,  
late of Paddox Newnham,  
which deseased the 24 Sep. MDXLVII., and Elizabeth,  
his wife, 1539, daughter of Sir J. Poultney.”

8th

SIR BASIL succeeded his father. In Queen Elizabeth's reign he was Sheriff of Warwickshire. He married Goditha, co-heiress of Willington of Burcheston. There is also their effigy on an alabaster marble tomb in Monks Kirby Church, beside Sir William's, and it has their portraitures on the top, and several figures supporting their coats of arms, and two children in swaddling clothes. The inscription—  
“ Here under, lieth the bodies of Basil-ffilding of Newnham Paddox, and Goditha his wife, whom we hope rest in joy. 1580.”

9th

SIR WILLIAM succeeded his father. Made Knight of Bath and Sheriff, 1589. Married Dorethy, daughter of Sir Ralf Lane of Horton, whose wife's brother married Catherine Parr, the Queen (he being her first spouse).

10th

SIR BASIL succeeded his father. Married—1605—Elizabeth, daughter of Sir W. Aston of Tixhill, Staffordshire.

1st

EARL WILLIAM  
(Denbigh) succeeded his father. He was a renowned hero; was knighted by James I., at Belvoir Castle, when on his way from Scotland to take the English Crown, 1603; was made Custos Rotulorum of Warwickshire, 1620; created Baron and Viscount Fielding, 1621; Earl of Denbigh, and Master of the Great Wardrobe, 1622; went with Prince Charles to Spain, 1631; was Ambassador to Persia. He always adhered to the side of Charles the I. At Newnham Paddox there is a ring which Charles I. took from his finger at his execution, and gave to the father of a Countess of Denbigh. Near Birmingham, in 1643, William, 1st Earl of Denbigh, while performing the part of a valiant soldier, was badly wounded, and died five days after, to the great sorrow and concern of the King. He was buried at Monks Kirby Church beside his ancestors. The Earl of Clarendon writes of him—"The Earl of Denbigh served from the very beginning of the war with unwearied pains and exact submission to discipline and order. He was a volunteer in Prince Rupert's troop, and

engaged with singular courage in all enterprises of danger; but was unfortunately wounded, with many hurts on the head and body, with swords and pole axes, of which he died." He married Susan, daughter of Sir G. Villiers of Brooksby, Leicestershire. (Her brother became the great Duke of Buckingham). By her he had two sons—Basil, (Earl of Denbigh) and George, (Earl of Desmond); also two daughters—Mary, in 1620, married James, Duke of Hamilton. She died 1638, and was buried in Westminster Abbey (see NOTE B). Ann married Baptist Noel, Viscount Campden, and is buried in Campden Church, Gloucestershire. Over her remains is a monument with this inscription—"She changed this life for a better. 1630." Her daughter Elizabeth married Viscount Kgnelmeaky, who was slain 1642, and she was made Countess of Guildford.\*

2nd

EARL BASIL  
(Denbigh)

succeeded his father. He was made a Knight of the Bath at Charles I. coronation. He went over to Cromwell's side and delivered up his commission in 1645. In 1663, he, having gone in

\* NOTE.—See Sir P. Feilding's second letter at page 46.



for Charles II. at the restoration, was created by him Lord St. Liz, by reason of his descent from Agnes St. Liz before mentioned. He married four times—1st, Ann, daughter of Earl of Portland; she died at Venice, 1633. 2nd, Barbara, heiress to Sir John Lambe, Dean of Arches, at Canterbury; she died in 1641. 3rd, Elizabeth Bourchair, daughter of the Earl of Bath; she died in 1670. 4th, Dorothy Lane of Glendour. No issue.

3rd

EARL WILLIAM succeeded his uncle Basil, and was the son of  
(Denbigh) George, 1st Earl of Desmond; he thus combined  
2nd both titles in one. He was captain of a troop of  
(Desmond) horse, and was good and excellent in talents. He resumed the ancient titles of the family, "Count of Hapsburgh and of the Holy Roman Empire." He married, in 1664, Mary, daughter of Sir John King, (her sister married Lord John Kingston); she died 1669.

4th

EARL BASIL succeeded his father, born 1668; was master of  
(Denbigh) the horse to George, Prince of Denmark; Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Denbigh; Colonel of

Dragoons, 1694. He carried the banner of England and France (quarterly) at the funeral of Queen Mary, 1695; made Doctor of Civil Law at Oxford, and Recorder of Coventry, in room of Earl of Sutherland, 1713; a letter of Exchequer in George I.; died 1716; married Hester, daughter of Sir Basil Firebrace.

5th

EARL WILLIAM

(Denbigh)

succeeded his father, born 1697; was at the coronation of his late Majesty; married Isabella, daughter of Petro de Yonghe, of Utrecht, and sister of the Marchioness of Blandford.

6th

EARL BASIL

(Denbigh)

succeeded his father, born 1719; married Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir John Bruce Cotton of Connington, Huntingdonshire, the last male heir of the famous Sir Robert Cotton.

7th

EARL WILLIAM

(Denbigh)

succeeded his father, born 1760; he is the Master of Harriers and Foxhounds in Leicestershire; a Privy Councillor; Colonel of Militia, Lord of the Bed Chamber; married 1783, Sara, widow of Sir C. Halford, of Weston.

Titles of the Feilding family are — Viscount Feilding of Callan, Baron Feilding of Newnham

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Paddox, Baron St. Liz, Baron Feilding of Lecaghe, Earl of Denbigh 1622, Lord St. Liz 1663, Earl Desmond 1622.

ARMS.

Pear on Fess, Sapphire ; 3 Lozenges, Topaz.

CREST.

An Eagle displayed diamond, armed and membered topaz, and charged on the breast with the family coat ; a palm tree, 2 bucks and motto—

*Honor virtutes præmium*

(Honour is the reward of virtue.)

SEAT—Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire, 70 miles from London.

The portraits of this family, down to Basil, who lived in the reign of James I., were in stained glass upon the windows of the Church ; they are all kneeling—the men in armour, the women in the dress of the period.

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NOTES to Lodge's "Irish Peerage."

NOTE A. THE Memorandum Script spoken of here was received by Count Geoffrey at Munsterton, Lutterworth, and is now in the muniment room at Newnham Padox. It has been shown to Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Fielding by General the Honourable Sir

Percy Feilding, son of the 7th Earl of Denbigh, and this (translated) copy of it was given them by him :—

“ MEMORANDUM OF RUDOLPH, COUNT OF HAPSBURGH, 1309 :

“To all those to whom these present letters shall come,  
Rudolph Count of Hapsburgh sends greetings,—

“ WE would have you all to know, that, heretofore, question was made between us and our brother Count Geoffry, Hapsburgh (deceased), concerning many dominions which have descended to us by inheritance, after the death of the late Count Geoffry our father. The above-mentioned Geoffry called Filding our brother on returning to Germany from England constituted his sons born in England his heirs. Their mother being the Lady Matilda Colville of a noble family in that kingdom.

“The eldest son of Geoffry our brother hath sent unto us his servant John Steyne with letters from the illustrious Prince Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and other chief nobles of the said kingdom, in favour of the said Count Geoffry our brother. But we being displeased that the said Count Geoffry born in a distant land from a marriage secretly concluded without our advice or consent or his relations in Germany, and whose son joined himself in matrimony in the same manner with Lady Agnes de Napton, this manner being unusual, our family have not adjudged it to be right that he should not only be equal to us here but should be esteemed more illustrious and excel us in paternal inhereditament here. In consequence of which the said John Steyne left Germany without finishing his business, but after a short time the said John Steyne returned from England with more ample instructions and powers, and that we may show true obedience to our Emperor Henry VII., who hath willed that

this should be done and the dispute ended, to wit, that by the hands of the Lord John de Stauffen there be sent from our treasury into England 7000 marks of silver to the said Count Geoffry in full and entire payment to him and his heirs for ever. This being confirmed by the impression of our seal in the presence of John and Rudolph our sons, Counts de Hapsburgh, John Count de Theirstein, William Count de Luffen, the Lord Henry de Ochienstin, William de Kem, Conrad de Andstein (chaplain), John de Rotbergh, and many others. Done at Ryn-filden in the year Anno Domini 1309.”

This document was written in Latin on parchment with pendant seals, and was about 9 inches by 4 inches (say). The acquittance is also like the above document, and was seen, and handled, by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mantell Fielding.

From Wright's "Rutland," page 89, *Newnham Paddox*—"Sir William Filding married Johanna, daughter and heir to William Prudhome, by Juliana, daughter and heir to Robert de Newnham of Newnham Paddox, in the county of Warwick, which estate by deed conveyed to Sir William Filding's son John, by John Leventhorpe, and has from that time been the seat of the family of Fielding."

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NOTE B. Pennant says, page 256 of his tour in Scotland, 1796—"I visited Hamilton Palace, near Glasgow. Among its pictures is a famous one of the 1st Earl of Denbigh, whose daughter Mary married, 1620, James, Duke of Hamilton; she died 1638, and is buried in Westminster Abbey. In the picture gallery at the Palace are the portraits of this Lady and her husband the Duke, also by Van Dicke. The 1st Earl of Denbigh her father, also by Van Dicke is depicted with grey hair, his gun

in his hand, and a black page attending him. This portrait seems perfectly to start from the canvas, and the expression on his countenance looking up has matchless spirit. He commanded the Fleet in two expeditions against Rochell. In the second expedition he found the French Fleet lying in the harbour, and promised to destroy this fleet as soon as wind and tide changed. On the breaking out of the civil war, he showed himself as he was, a gallant stout gentleman and soldier, and died fighting gloriously for his King 1643. He fought in the battle of Edgehill, and his son, a mere lad, took Cromwell's side; father and son against each other, their wings being posted opposite one another."

*(A copy of this picture is given as frontispiece.)*

See Extract (given hereafter) from page 133 of Westminster Register concerning the above Duchess of Hamilton.

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## LINEAGE OF DENBIGH:

### **FEILDING.**

*(From BURKE'S "PEERAGE.")*

**T**HIS family is descended from the Counts of Hapsburgh, Lauffenburgh, and Reinfilten, Counts of the Holy Roman Empire.

1st

COUNT GEOFFREY, the first who came to England, did so in the reign of Henry III. about 1230, he was cousin to Rudolph, Emperor of Germany. He served Henry III. both

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in France and England, took the surname of Fil-  
dinge from his father's domain Filden or Rinfildinge.  
He married Matilda de Colville.

2<sup>nd</sup>

GEOFFREY succeeded his father ; married Agnes, daughter and  
heir of John de Napton. She brought him Mun-  
sterton, Leicestershire.

3<sup>rd</sup>

WILLIAM succeeded his father ; married Joan, daughter and  
heir of W. Prudhome, who brought him Newnham  
Padox, Warwickshire.

4<sup>th</sup>

JOHN succeeded his father ; married Margaret, daughter of  
William de Purefoy.

5<sup>th</sup>

WILLIAM succeeded his father. Fell at the battle of Tewkes-  
bury. Married Agnes, daughter of, and heiress of  
Lord John de Liz of Martinsthorpe, Earl of North-  
ampton and Huntingdon, and in descent of blood  
from the house of Vaux, Longville, and Bellers.

6<sup>th</sup>

EVERARD succeeded his father ; made Knight of Bath and  
Sheriff Edward IV. ; commanded the army at the  
battle of Stoke 1487 ; married Jellis Russel.

16 *Some Hapsburgs, Feildings, Denbighs & Desmonds.*

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7th

WILLIAM succeeded his father; married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir J. Poultney.

8th

BASIL succeeded his father; married Goditha, daughter and heiress of Sir W. Willington.

9th

WILLIAM succeeded his father; married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Ralph Lane, whose wife was daughter of Lord Parr, the brother of Queen Catherine.

10th

BASIL succeeded his father; married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir W. Tixall.

-----  
1st

EARL WILLIAM succeeded his father, was created Viscount Feilding of Newnham Padox, Warwickshire, and Earl of Denbigh 1622.

In the wars of Charles I. he performed the part of a stout and valiant soldier in many battles, but at length was mortally wounded and died 1643. He married Susan, daughter of Sir G. Villiers of Brokesby, Leicestershire. She was sister to the famous Duke of Buckingham.



2nd

EARL BASIL succeeded his father. He took opposite sides in the Civil War from his father, and while his father fought the battle of Edgehill under the King's banner, he fought under Essex, and was a famous military commander. At the restoration of Charles II. he became a Royalist, and was created Lord St. Liz in commemoration of his descent from that noble family. First he married Lady Ann Weston, daughter of Earl of Portland, Lord High Treasurer of England. He also married three more wives, but died childless.

3rd

EARL WILLIAM,  
(Denbigh)  
(2nd Desmond) son of George, 1st Earl of Desmond, succeeded his uncle. He married Mary, daughter of Sir R. King and widow of Sir W. Meredyth, by whom he had two sons and a daughter Mary, who married the Marquess of Dorchester. He married secondly daughter and heiress of the Earl of Monmouth. He died 1685. He resumed the old titles of his family, Count of the Holy Roman Empire and Count of Hapsburgh.

4th

EARL BASIL  
(Denbigh) succeeded his father ; married Hester, daughter and sole heiress of Sir B. Firebrace, son of the one

who attended Charles I. at execution and received from Charles at that moment his miniature set in diamonds in a ring, which descended through his daughter to the Denbighs.

5th

EARL WILLIAM  
(Denbigh)

succeeded his father ; married Isabella, daughter of Petro de Yonghe ; her sister was Marchioness of Blandford. He died 1755.

6th

EARL BASIL

succeeded his father ; married 1791 Mary, daughter of and heiress of Sir J. Bruce Cotton of Connington, Huntingdonshire, who was the last male heir of the great antiquary, of the Cottonian Library.

7th

EARL WILLIAM  
(Denbigh)  
(6th Desmond)

succeeded his grandfather. He was born 1796, died 1865. Married Mary, daughter of Earl Ducie (Sir Percy Feilding's parents).

8th

EARL RUDOLPH

succeeded his father. He was born 1823 ; married 1846 Louisa, only child of David Pennant and Lady Emma Pennant of Downing, Flintshire ; she died in 1853. He married second Mary, daughter of Robert Berkeley of Speckley Park, Worcester-shire, by whom he had three sons and four daughters.

9th

EARL RUDOLPH succeeded his father; married Cecilia, daughter of Lord Clifford. He is Lieutenant Royal Artillery Company, commanded by the Prince of Wales.

### A PEDIGREE of the Denbighs and Hapsburghs.

THIS Pedigree (without the dates), from Guntram, was given to T. M. Feilding by General the Honourable Sir Percy Feilding, son of 7th Earl of Denbigh.

PHAROMOND, King of the West Franks, 430; ELECTRICO, Duke of Alsace, his descendant, 780; ELTERCHON, son of Electrico, 850; GUNTRAM, Count of Hapsburgh and of Brisgan (descended from Elterchon), 900.

(The above from W. H. Feilding's book.)

GUNTRAM (The Rich)	980	"Count of Hapsburgh and of Brisgan." All underneath are Counts of Hapsburgh and of The Holy Roman Empire.
FRANGELINUS	999	
RADEBOTO	1000	
WERNERUS I.	1020	Bishop of Strassburgh. He built the Castle of Hapsburgh, near Schniznest, 1020.
ALDALBERT I.	1140	
WERNERUS II.	1163	

20 *Some Hapsburghs, Feildings, Denbighs & Desmonds.*

ALDALBERT II.	1199	
RUDOLPH	1232	= Agnes Hauenschauffer.
RUDOLPH	1249	= Gertrude of Ratisbond.
GEOFFREY	1271	= Elizabeth of Ochinstein.
SIR GEOFFREY	1280	= Matilda de Colville.
SIR GEOFFREY	1309	= Agnes de Napton.
SIR WILLIAM FILDINGE	1360	= Johanna Prudhome.
SIR JOHN FILDINGE	1390	= Margaret Purefoy.
SIR WILLIAM FILDINGE	1471	= Agnes de Liz or Seaton.
SIR EVERARD „	1515	= Jellis Russel.
SIR WILLIAM „	1547	= Elizabeth Poultney.
SIR BASIL „	1580	= Goditha Willington.
SIR WILLIAM „	1589	= Dorethy Lane.
SIR BASIL „	1595	= Elizabeth Aston.
1st EARL DENBIGH (William)	1622	= Susan Villers.
2nd EARL BASIL	1633	= Elizabeth, daughter Earl of Bath, and three other wives. No issue.
3. EARL WILLIAM and and E. Desmond, Cousin of above.	1665	= Mary King.
4. BASIL	1717	= Hester Firebrace.
5. WILLIAM	1755	= Isabella de Yonghe.

6. BASIL	1760	= Mary Cotton.
WILLIAM (Viscount)	1790	= Catherine Powis.
7. WILLIAM	1865	= Mary Ducie.
8. RUDOLPH	1892	= Louisa Pennant and Mary Berkley.
9. RUDOLPH	1894	= Cecilia Clifford, daughter Lord Clifford.

*Copied from*

**THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY REGISTER, 1875.**

The name of FEILDING occurs on pages as below:—

LADY ADELAIDE EMILY FEILDING, . . . . .	<i>Page</i> 59
ANNE, . . . . .	13 <i>n</i> , 198
LADY BARBARA, . . . . .	135
BASIL, . . . . .	135, 193
DOROTHEA, . . . . .	193
GEORGE, . . . . .	198
LADY MARGARET, . . . . .	276
LADY MARY, . . . . .	133, 353
MARY, . . . . .	198
LADY MARY ELIZABETH KITTY ( <i>ante</i> ), . . . . .	59
PHILIP, . . . . .	127
ROBERT OF BEAU FEILDING, } (Major-General), }	162, 330
WILLIAM, . . . . .	123, 127
SIR WILLIAM BASIL PERCY ( <i>ante</i> ), . . . . .	59

*Page 59.* Marriage of C. A. Murray to Lady Adelaide Emily, daughter of William Basil Percy Feilding, 7th Earl of Denbigh, of 49 Eaton Square, London, in April, 1865. Her mother was Lady Mary Elizabeth Kitty, eldest daughter of Thomas, 1st Earl Ducie.

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*Page 13.* Marriage of Sir Samuell Moreland and Mrs. Anne Feilding, 167 $\frac{5}{8}$ .

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*Page 198.* Burial of Lady Anne Moreland, Feb. 24, 167 $\frac{9}{80}$ .

Monuments copied by T. M. Fielding in 1892—

Ann, daughter of George Filding, and Mary his wife, 3rd wife of Samvel Moreland, Kt. and Bart., died Feb. 20, *anno dom.* 167 $\frac{9}{80}$ . *Ætatis* XIX.

*N.B.* Also recorded on same monument—Carola, wife Samvel Moreland, 1674.

Anne, third daughter of G. Feilding (or Filding), of Solihull, Co. Warwick, by Mary, third daughter of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wiston, Essex, Kt.

(*Note.*—The portrait of another daughter of the above G. Filding's is in possession of *Rev. Feilding Palmer*, of East Cliff, Chepstow, and of Lutterworth.)

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*Page 135.* Burial of Lady Barbara Feilding, daughter of Sir John Lambe, Kt., and second wife of Basil Feilding, afterwards 2nd Earl of Denbigh. According to her coffin plate she died the preceding day. 1641.

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*Page 193* refers to Dorothea, daughter of Sir Basil Feilding of Newnham. 1677.

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Barbara Villiers, born 1640; married Roger Palmer; became mistress of Charles II., 1659; created Lady Castlemaine, 1662; Duchess of Cleveland, 1670; married R. Beau Feilding when Duchess of Cleveland, 1673.

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*Page 276.* 1713. Burial of Mrs. Margaret Feilding.

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*Page 133.* 1638. Marquess Hamilton's Lady buried in the Countess of Buckingham's vault. She was Lady Mary Feilding, daughter of William, 1st Earl of Denbigh, by Susan Villiers, sister to George, 1st Duke of Buckingham, and wife of James, 3rd Marquis and afterwards Duke of Hamilton. She was a Lady of the Queen's Bedchamber, and died 10th May; her brothers died 1627, and her daughter, 1631, and her sons, 1638 and 1640.

(See page 14.)

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*Page 353.* 1739. Burial of William Cockburn, M.D., who married secondly 15th April, 1729, *Lady Mary Feilding*, eldest daughter of Basil, 4th Earl of Denbigh, who died October, 1732. He was stigmatised as an old, very rich quack, and by his second wife very unkindly as "very ugly."

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*Page 127.* Hon Philip Feilding, third son to William, 1st Earl of Denbigh, buried 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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*Page 123.* Burial of Sir Robert Lane. He left his estates to his cousin William, Earl of Denbigh. 1624.

EXTRACT FROM A BOOK CONCERNING THIS FAMILY

In the Possession of the late W. H. FIELDING.

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“THE family of Denbigh boasts as long a roll of illustrious ancestors as any in the known world, being, to begin with, directly descended from Pharamond, King of the West Franks, who died 430. Electrico or Eltrico, Duke of Alsace, was 9th in descent from Pharamond; he lived in the latter part of the 7th century. From his son Elterchon descended Guntram, Count of Hapsburgh and of Brisgan (the Rich), from whom came by historical descent the Hapsburgh race; also from Guntram came the Grand Dukes of Baden and other princely houses of Italy. Guntram the Rich was made Count of Brisgan 1026. The male line of Hapsburgh became extinct in Charles the 6th of Austria. His daughter, the Arch-Duchess Maria Theresa, succeeded to her father’s domains after six years of bloodshed. The house of Hapsburgh has given 22 emperors to Austria, 16 to Germany, 11 kings to Hungary and Bohemia, and 6 to Spain. The English branch have intermarried with a great portion of the noblest and best blood in England, as is seen in Burke’s ‘Peerage.’”





## RUDOLPH OF HAPSBURGH.

BRONZE GROUP BY W. SEIB.

“WHAT would'st thou, priest?” the Count began,  
As, marvelling much, he halted there.  
“Sir Count, I seek a dying man,  
Sore hungering for the heavenly fare.”  
The bridge that once its safety gave,  
Rent by the anger of the wave,  
Drifts down the tide below. . . . .

He gave the priest the knightly steed,  
He reached the priest the lordly reins,  
That he might serve the sick man's need,  
Nor slight the task that heaven ordains.  
He took the horse the squire bestrode,  
On to the chase the hunter rode,  
On to the sick the priest. . . . .

And when the morrow's sun was red,  
The servant of the Saviour led  
Back to its lord the beast.  
“Now heaven forefend!” the hero cried,  
“That e'er to chase or battle more,  
These limbs the sacred steed bestride,  
That once my Maker's image bore.”

SCHILLER'S “BALLADS,”  
*translated by Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton.*

In Bulwer Lytton's Ballads, page 42, he says—  
“The Queen of England has Rudolph of Hapsburgh for her ancestor. The Rudolph here mentioned was Emperor of Germany: he was famed for the gift of humility and reverence. There is a legend concerning him still handed down. It is this: He was near an angry ford across a mountain torrent, and seeing a priest with ‘The Host,’ asked him “where he was going?” He was told “he went to take God's healing to a dying man.” The Emperor at once placed him on his own steed. On its being returned, this hero replied, ‘This steed shall never more carry any man, having once carried the image of my Maker.’”

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### CELEBRITIES AT HOME.

*(An article from “THE WORLD,” 1881).*

“THE career of a race like the Fieldings, who for six centuries have played an active historical part in the annals of England, shows what vicissitudes nations and families pass through. The history of the Pedigree of the English branch of the Hapsburgh

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family has all the weight of Sir William Dugdale, author of 'Origines Juridicales, or the History of English Laws, Courts of Justice, Chancellors, Justices and Attorneys at the College of Arms in Heraldic lore.' This family of Fielding, *he* shows, 'had a long succession of increased wealth by marriages with heiresses,' and, he adds, 'they did not suffer as others did in the civil commotions; their line of succession was also singular in its directness from parent to child in the male line for nearly ten centuries.'

“The older branch of the Hapsburgs do not disdain their cousins in England, as the Imperial House of Austria has always been on the most friendly terms with the Lords of Newnham, visiting them from time to time. Newnham Paddox is quite a typical English country house. The family occupies itself with the duties and occupations that cluster round an ancient country family. The present mansion is an enormous modern pile; adjoining it is a beautiful chapel. Conspicuous among many art treasures, accumulated by many generations, are the magnificent Vandykes, which all the world went lately to see exhibited at Burling-

ton House. One of the most highly-prized relics of the past is the ring containing a miniature set in diamonds of Charles I., given by him on the scaffold to Sir Basil Firebrace. The 4th Earl married his daughter, and thus it descended to the Denbighs. Heir-looms are to such families what a miser's or worlding's gold is to him. There is a large and splendidly-timbered park round the mansion. Close to it is the village of Monks Kirby, in which on all sides are evidences of the generous care of its owners."

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The Feilding race (also the Hapsburghs) are famed for the masculine character of their men's faces, and appearance. The nose is a recognised generation of noses, and the under-lip very full. "The Hapsburgh lip" is well known in history, and is to be seen in many of the race in England now. Their women have patrician features.

The scenery around Newnham is beautiful in summer, and made still more so by the display of wild roses along every road and hedge, as if they were covered in snow showers. In some places they

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are 12 feet high and yards wide on the roads for miles, and the hedgerows among the fields look all snow dashed, scenting the whole air, reminding one of Isaiah's fine poem—"The wilderness and the solitary place was glad for them; the desert rejoiced and blossomed as the rose, yea, blossomed abundantly, and rejoiced even with joy and singing."

The Monks Kirby Village Church, where lie the remains of many a brave warrior of the Feilding race, is very large and beautiful, standing on its picturesque "God's acre," situated on a rising ground above the village. When one enters the church the very stones seem to talk eloquently of the continual call to arms of those ancient days. Many a serf's bones lie crumbling there—warriors who fought for, and along with, the feudal lord of that Baronial Hall; these were the men who peopled this village, nestling round this ancient church and mansion. Everything is interesting regarding those who link us with the infinite past.

As to the link of armorial bearings, the first "cotte d'armes" appeared in the Second Crusade, 1147, each leader adopting some symbol that he and his followers might be safer in the fight.

Latterly it has degenerated into a mere emblem of family pride, formerly ; it was a practical consideration, for safety, and union of clans. They are classic symbols, and their origin forms a science. The Roman and Austrian eagle was originally a wolf. The eagle became their new symbol during the Consulate of Marius. At Bannockburn, De Clare lost his life by not wearing his "cotte d'armes," and the battle of Barnet was lost, by Oxford's Banner, and the king's, being so alike, that Warwick charged Oxford instead of the king.

In Monks Kirby Church are two large effigy monuments, in marble, of alabaster, to ancient earls and their wives ; the carving on them is very fine indeed. The knights in armour, the dames in the dress of the period ; they lie with folded hands in prayer, reminding one of the old couplet—

"As if past sins they would atone,  
By saying endless prayers in stone."

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Once, we (my husband and myself) thought we would interview the past, and see with our own eyes

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the spot where these men of renown lived, died, and were buried, and we went in July, 1894.

The feeling was a strange one to see my husband standing close to the remains of his forefathers, and thinking how those skulls close to us, once possessed many noble and great thoughts, culminating at last in the rare genius of Henry Fielding, whose great-grandson now stood so near his ancestors' graves.

The name on some of the ancient alabaster tombs is spelt Fildinge. The change in the spelling of Feilding into Fielding was made, it is said, by George, 1st Earl of Desmond, son of the 1st Earl of Denbigh. On one of the Earls of Denbigh asking Henry Fielding why his branch spelt their names "Fie" and not "Fei," he replied, "I suppose, my lord, it was because our branch was the first who learned to spell."

To return to our visit to the tombs, we thoroughly examined three of the most ancient and interesting churches connected with the family, viz., Misterton (or Munsterton), Lutterworth, and Monks Kirby.

Misterton, with the date on it of 1200, is a small and ancient edifice on a picturesque eminence close

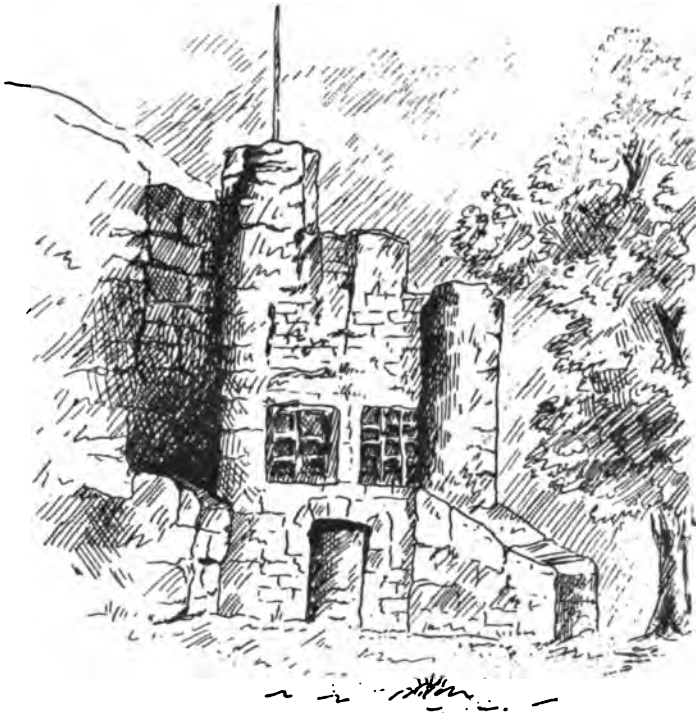
to Lutterworth. Here is an effigy monument (the same style and design as those at Monks Kirby) of Sir T. Poultney. He is also in armour. He was father of Sir W. Fielding's wife, 1500. It was at Misterton the famous document was received, as quoted, between Rudolph of Hapsburgh and his brother Geoffry, 1309.

Lutterworth Church is handsome and ancient, and beautifully situated at the top of the town. It was in this town that John, 1471, was born, eldest son of Sir William Fildinge and Agnes de Liz, and she is buried here. Also one yard of land was given to Sir Geoffrey Fildinge as dower to his wife, Matilda de Colville.

Lord Salisbury's brother-in-law is now rector of Lutterworth. Wickliffe was once rector of it, and lived and died here, and his effigy tomb is in the church. There is also a most extraordinary Fresco over the entrance to the chancel and very ancient, depicting the resurrection morn, with the graves all opening and giving up their dead. Several windows and monuments are here to the Feildings. They also possess lands here. The hotels we were in at Lutterworth and Monks Kirby had over their en-



trance the Denbigh arms, on the spread eagle's breast, with two heads, denoting double empire.



Ruin at Tintern Parva called at the present time "Fielding's Manor," where lived William Feilding, brother to an Earl of Denbigh.

At Tintern, Gloucestershire, on the Wye, when staying there, we discovered an interesting old ruin

of a castle, near the old church of Tintern Parva, half-a-mile from Tintern Abbey. We found the people about called it "Feilding's Manor," and we got the following information from a local book:—  
"In the 16th century, at 'Tintern Manor,' lived William Feilding, related to the 4th Earl of Denbigh, and consequently also related to Henry Fielding the novelist."

In the romantic looking little church of Tintern Parva, near the ruined castle, we discovered in the nave, centre passage, a tombstone with this engraved upon it—"Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Feilding died Jan<sup>y</sup> 1704 wife of William Feilding Gent. daughter of John Phillips of Tallawn in this county.

"She was the best of housewives,  
And ye tenderest of wives,  
Religious, modest, and yet free,  
Abhorring sloth, she still helped poverty.  
To moan her loss she left her friends behind.  
Her body to this Tomb confined  
But She, with joy, Herself, to Heaven resigned."

Almost within sight of this ruin stands the house of East Cliff, overhanging a high cliff on the river Wye. It is the property and residence of a lineal descendant of Fernando Feilding, son of Sir William

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Feilding, 1589. His name is the "Rev. Feilding Palmer." He is also possessor of a part of the ancient Feilding property at Lutterworth. A little higher up this classic river Wye—made so by Tennyson and Wordsworth—there live other descendants of the race of Feilding.

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### THE "ROUND" CASE.

*(From the "QUARTERLY REVIEW" of October, 1893).*

I MAY here mention a case of the new phase of criticism—according to Mr. Sneerwell—arising from a desire of novelty, and ending in impudent fabrications, belittling the illustrious.

Unless a man takes true impressions from his premises, it is absurd of him to call himself an historian or critic, and it seems as if Mr. Round has purposely gone out of his way here to hunt up false impressions. Consider this, the "Quarterly Review" is handsomely bound year by year for reference in free and subscription libraries in England and Scotland—it being for 100 years a first-class periodical, and no doubt read by many people living in remote places out of England (some have even

applied to us to know what this assertion in the "Quarterly" as to the Feilding family means). Then, Mr. Round's paper regarding the Denbighs no sooner appeared than it became known in America. "The New York Tribune" took it up, of course, in defence of Mr. Round's statement, developing and eloquently elaborating the false statements given by him. To some of these American letters, Sir Percy Feilding sent an answer; it only caused another letter of sneers. It is strange to see how some men accept the most cruel charges against others, on the most worthless evidence. It may seem to outsiders *a little* matter, this falsehood being spread far and wide as to the Hapsburghs not being the direct ancestors of the House of Denbigh; but to that race it is a matter of life and death, because a matter of Birthright and Honour; no casket is rich enough to keep safe such a jewel. Let those who pooh-pooh it as a trifle try for a moment to feel as they feel; if any are unable to fully sympathise in this matter, they should not attempt to read the following narrative. Those who can will need no excuse to be made for its elaboration here. The appearance of this paper in

the "Quarterly" was the one great stimulus to this publication of mine, feeling strongly that my children ought to know about their forefathers, when Mr. Round virtually calls them all frauds.

In a German book by Marlett I came upon this sentence, "Nature does not always mark families so distinctly from generation to generation as she has done in the thick drooping underlip of the Hapsburghs." Now, this lip is even at the *present* time a most distinctive feature of the Fielding race in England. In our family alone three or four instances can be shown, and the Rev. Feilding Palmer has it most distinctly. The ancient family portraits also show it in past generations. It would be an odd coincidence that this should be the case were the race sprung from a simple English yeoman. The other proofs are, of course, overpowering, but this one may also be added.

Here are the words of Mr. J. H. Round as to this matter, published in the October number of the "Quarterly" (1893), under the title of "The Peerage"; and, remember, this review makes it a rule never to insert any allusion to its past articles; therefore Mr. Round knew he was safe from contradiction in his

random slander. It will make what Mr. Round says more lucid if I explain that in his article he is reviewing two peerages: first, Sir E. Burke's, who has nearly a century of fame; and secondly, a very modern man, named G. E. C., who has written what he calls "a Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, and Ireland extant, extinct, and dormant." I may also give here Mr. Round's remarks in the first pages of his paper on the said G. E. C. to show that he is quite conscious of the worthlessness of G. E. C.'s authority, and yet Mr. Round founds his whole case against the Denbighs on G. E. C.'s sole assertion. To begin with, Mr. Round here contradicts himself, for at the beginning of his article he says this—"Sir W. Dugdale (1605) is so careful in giving for his every statement an exact reference, thus enabling us to test his facts at every point, and this G. E. C. does not do. Moreover, it is evident that G. E. C. is not at home in the feudal period of history, but is more at home in the last three centuries. He is hopelessly behind the times. He is incorrect as to there being no proof of any writs of summons being issued between Simon de Montfort's Parliament, 1264, and Edward's,

1295, as it has been proved that there were writs." And yet after saying this, he (Mr. Round), from the sole authority of the said G. E. C., has made these assertions as to the Denbighs, and goes on to mention two or three cases of spurious peerages, citing the Denbighs at the greatest length. He writes thus of them—

#### ROUND'S PAPER.

"The last case I select is that of the exalted, but *mysterious*, foreign dignities claimed by the Earls of Denbigh!" Round goes on to inform us (of what G. E. C. says) that "these noblemen, the Denbighs, are descended from the plain country gentleman who had the good luck to marry Buckingham's sister in the days of her poverty. Rising with Buckingham, Round goes on to say, "Sir William Fielding became a peer, when in due course the family revealed a fact they had hitherto kept to themselves, namely, that they were not of English origin, but were descended in the male line from the mighty house of Hapsburgh. It was this that made Gibbon, when alluding to their pedigree of a thousand years, write as he did. Lord Denbigh,

according to the Ulster King of Arms, is Count of Hapsburgh, Lauffenburgh and Rheinfielden, and of the Holy Roman Empire. The Austrian Eagle bears his arms, and the antiquity of his Countship is so great its date is unknown! Yet of all these honours G. E. C.'s peerage is mute, though he hints *in a foot note* that no mention is made of this illustrious origin in the Herald's visitation, 1619. In this, however, he misses the point, which is that, so late as 1619, the family, for reasons best known to themselves, entered it in this visitation as a different pedigree, and traced their origin to a simple Englishman, John Feldinge by name." Then Mr. Round goes on to say—"These cases I have just cited are, of course, conspicuous ones, but little points are more easily overlooked than such conspicuous ones as these, because little ones tempt the honesty and accuracy of peerage writers less." Now, let General Feilding's letters to myself, and this he sent to "The World," answer Mr. Round's unprincipled assertion.

General the Honourable Sir Percy Feilding, son of the 7th Earl of Denbigh, wrote to the editor of "The World," Jan. 24, 1894—"You quote a state-



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ment made by Mr. Round in the October 'Quarterly,' that 'no claim to the Hapsburgh title was ever made by the Denbighs until the time of James I.' I trust you will allow me to inform your readers that the documents are still in the muniment room at Newnham Paddox which satisfied that eminent genealogist, Sir W. Dugdale, some 250 years ago, that the claim was well founded, and that amongst these documents are several which prove conclusively that it is not true that the family never raised any claim to such descent until the 17th century, seeing that from their first settlement in England, 1280, down to 1573, the head of the family added the words 'aliter de Hapsburgh' to his signature on legal and other business documents, as is shown by these documents still extant at Newnham. From his position as the Garter King at Arms of the period, Dugdale was able to examine the evidence both for and against this claim, and the writer in the 'Quarterly' has only seen those against, and none for it; therefore your readers may decide which of the two is most worthy of credence. I will only add that the visitation of 1619, which appears to be the sole evidence thought necessary in making

this grave charge, is not acknowledged in any way by the College of Arms, and this is not surprising, seeing that, according to that document, the 1st Earl of Denbigh, who is stated to have entered it in the visitation, appears to have been unable to state what was his own parent's name, which was Basil, the space being filled up thus—Quere, Sir William? (instead of Basil.) PERCY FEILDING (General).”

It is well known that visitation records were very carelessly kept at this troubled period of history, and were recorded long after the events had taken place, as this case proves. Then why does Mr. Round quote *this* as the one only proof of such an astounding assertion? Even the register of the consecration of Bishops at Lambeth Palace at this period was so carelessly kept that seven Bishops who were consecrated there are not to be found in the register, Bishop Parker among the number.

Had Mr. Round himself suddenly discovered a fresh mine of information on the subject, and under these circumstances felt he had a duty to perform to the public by unearthing this fraud, his action might have been intelligible had he first thoroughly examined the family papers, and got all the informa-

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tion concerning the subject to be found at the College of Arms.

The following letters on this subject were written to me by General the Honourable Sir Percy Feilding, of the Coldstream Guards. He is second son of the 7th Earl of Denbigh. He served in the Crimea, where he was wounded at Inkerman, and honourably mentioned for distinguished services. He got the Crimean medal, with four clasps, the Turkish war medal and Medjedie, and the Orders of the Legion of Honour. He married Lady Louisa, daughter of the Marquess of Bath. In recognition of his long and distinguished connection with the Guards, his son Geoffry was given a lieutenancy in his father's regiment.

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*To Mrs. Fielding.*

23 Princes Gate, S.W.,

Dec. 12th, 1893.

Dear Madam,

I am not surprised to hear that your branch of the family of Fielding are as indignant as the members of my branch are at the doubts expressed in the "Quarterly Review" as to our being descended from the Hapsburghs.

The article written by Mr. Round, who has some reputation as a student of history, and were it not for this, and the fact of its appearing in such a generally highly-thought-of periodical, I should perhaps not think his misstatement worth noticing. Mr. Round is evidently a very conceited man, who thinks he knows better than anyone, and believes that his bare word is to be taken as gospel.

I hope I shall ere long be in a position to upset and utterly quash all his foolish assertions as to this matter. I am now in correspondence with him, but although he does not think it wrong to anonymously slander us (for he, in fact, dubs us all as impostors), yet now, after doing so, he says he can only correspond with me strictly confidentially.

The whole history of our descent from the House of Hapsburgh was written out by a Nathaniel Wanley in 1670, and it is in 4th vol. of Nichols' "Leicestershire." In it will be found the old copies of the documents that prove it. These documents are in the muniment room at Newnham Paddox. Most of them are printed by Nichols, and by Sir W. Dugdale in his "History of Warwickshire." The earliest of them were printed by Dugdale 250 years ago. The strange thing is this that the would-be historian Mr. Round has never asked to see any documents the family have or the College of Arms possess, ere he made his astounding announcement to the world. I hope soon to show this up.

I may add that what he and G. E. C. call the Visitation Pedigree of 1619 is not to be found at the College of Arms,

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which is not surprising, as there are no less than eight or nine egregious mistakes in it. For instance, there is a query put as to who were the parents of the 1st Earl—the 1st Earl being the person of whom it writes, but unfortunately for its accuracy, there was no Earl of Denbigh at the time! 1622 was the date of the 1st Earl, but let that pass. How was it possible he did not know who his father was? Again, the only Arden who married a Feilding was one who married the sister of the 1st Earl, and Mr. G. E. C.'s visitation pedigree makes out that an Arden was 1st Earl's mother. It is not surprising that the College of Heralds would not accept this pedigree; in fact, no one would but Mr. Round.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours very faithfully,

PERCY FEILDING, General.

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*To Mrs. Fielding.*

23 Princes Gate,

Feb. 25, 1894.

Dear Madam,

I beg to thank you for the letters from the "New York Tribune." I have been from home, and not found time to take action with reference to Mr. Round's impudent and most uncalled-for attack upon our family honour.

When my late brother, the 8th Earl, rebuilt Newnham he made a beautiful new muniment room, but the contents of it have not been arranged. However, lately I had a good rummage in it, and succeeded in finding the documents which will upset all Mr. Round's dictatorial assertions.

I have also been to the British Museum, and examined the so-called visitation pedigree, upon which alone Mr. Round and G. E. C. found their proof. It is a most worthless document. All the information in visitation pedigrees is supplied by the family mentioned in them, and how could the first Earl supply it, and be ignorant of his father's name? Besides, I found a dozen more glaring errors in his book.

\* I have now brought to London from the muniment room some of the oldest documents that prove most clearly the Hapsburgh descent, and show Mr. Round nearly related to Ananias! I shall be most happy to show them to you, if you could come to luncheon. In looking up these documents I have picked up in the muniment room a good deal I never knew before. I found that in the patent creating the 2nd Earl Baron St. Liz it mentions this, that the king Charles II. creates him Baron St. Liz, firstly, because of his descent from Earl of Hapsburgh, and through Agnes de Seyton his wife being a St. Liz. The descent from the Hapsburghs I find also mentioned in the patent creating † Lady Kgnelmealing, sister to Earl Denbigh, Countess of

\* See NOTE A at the end of quotation from Lodge's Peerage.

† See quotation from Lodge's Peerage, page 8.

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Guildford. This shows Charles II. and his advisers recognised the claim. I found also a letter from the Marquess of Dorset (afterwards Duke of Suffolk) acknowledging the Denbighs as Hapsburgh, showing in Henry VIII.'s reign it was known.

I remain, &c.,

P. FEILDING.

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23 Princes Gate,

Mar. 25, 1894.

Dear Mrs. Fielding,

I am sorry to have to tell you my nephew, Lord Denbigh, has such a strong dislike to any controversy being published about the Hapsburgh descent that I have agreed to let the matter drop, at all events for the present. My nephew insists that the scribblings of anonymous writers living 250 years after Sir W. Dugdale are beneath our notice. Perhaps he may be wrong, but at all events I cannot help feeling that it is best for me to give in to his wishes. Pray do not answer this, and allow me to add that I am very much pleased at this opportunity of making your acquaintance, and remain sincerely yours,

P. FEILDING.

*P.S.*—I hope I have not done wrong in putting in one or two corrections in your manuscript book. In it you will find two loose papers showing your pedigree.

23 Princes Gate,

12th July, 1894.

Dear Mrs. Fielding,

I have been from home, or your interesting letter from Lutterworth would not have remained so long unanswered. I regret that you did not let us know that you were going to Leicestershire, for if you had, you may depend on it you would have found no hindrance in seeing all that is to be seen inside and outside Newnham Paddox, and I am sure both my nephew and Lady Denbigh will be much vexed when they hear that you were there. Your report of my father's monument and the fallen pinnacle of Monks Kirby Church surprises me, and I must see to it. Perhaps you may some day go again, when you must see the portrait of Wickliffe. It is an interesting one. We start in September for Australia, where our son is A.D.C. to the Governor of Sydney. Lady Louisa desires to be most kindly remembered to you.

In haste, yours most sincerely,

P. FEILDING.



Stanhope.

HN, = Bridget Cockaine.  
n of  
bury,

SIR JOHN, the blind Barrister,  
and Henry's half brother ;  
died unmarried.

ALLEN. Amelia. Sophia.

HENRY.

le Ewing, Amelia.  
ing,  
ery, N.B.

F.M., Matilda = Isabel =  
endant, b. 1872. b. 1874.  
to Son.



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HENRY FIELDING.

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HENRY FIELDING

*(from a Miniature by Hogarth.)*



## OF HENRY FIELDING:

### *His Descent from Desmonds.*

(From BURKE'S "PEERAGE," 1876.)

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GEORGE, second son of the 1st Earl of Denbigh and brother  
(1st Earl of Basil, 2nd Earl of Denbigh, was created Lord  
of Fielding of Lecaghe; and Viscount Callan. In  
Desmond) 1628 the Earl of Desmond was accidentally  
drowned in crossing from Dublin to England;  
Lord George Fielding then had the Earldom  
bestowed upon him. At the coronation of  
Charles II. he was made a Knight of the Bath.

It is recorded of him that he tilted in the most  
knightly manner at 13 years of age. He died (aged  
49) in 1665. Was buried at Euston Church, Suffolk,  
and there is a monument to his memory. He  
married Bridget, daughter of Sir M. Stanhope; left  
five sons and three daughters. His eldest son was  
3rd Earl of Denbigh and 2nd Earl of Desmond, and  
his fifth son was John.

JOHN was canon of Salisbury and chaplain to William and Mary. He married Bridget, daughter of Scepio Cockain of Somerset; left three sons and three daughters.

EDMUND was his second son, a general in Marlborough's wars. He married Sara, daughter of Sir H. Gould of Sharpham Park, Somerset, and had four daughters and two sons.

HENRY, son of General Edmund, the most distinguished of English novelists, was born at Sharpham Park, near Glastonbury, Somerset, on the 22nd April, 1707, and died 8th October, 1754. He was educated at Eton and Leyden; called to the Bar. Was a Bow Street Magistrate; and married Charlotte, daughter of A. Craddock of Salisbury, by whom he had one daughter, Eleanor Harriet. Married a second time Mary Daniels, and had two sons, William and Allen, and one daughter, Amelia.

ALLEN Fielding, vicar of St. Stephen and Blean, near Canterbury. Married M. Withrington, and died 1823, leaving four sons and three daughters.



**HENRY FIELDING.**

THE first life written of him was in 1755 by Murphy. Forty years ago an excellent life was published by F. Laurence of the Middle Temple. In the year 1883 was published a fresh life, by Austin Dobson; and another "The Edition de Luxe of Fielding's Works," by Leslie Stephen. These contain everything essential to be known about him; but there are still a few details which may be read with interest. Somehow, those who do have an interest in and regard for this man never tire of hearing of him. It has happened to nearly every member of our family to come across some one or two people in our lives who have become friendly with us on hearing our name, and have asked to be told some details of him, by his family. For instance, on the southern coast of Spain, our son Charles (Henry Fielding's great-great-grandson), was hospitably entertained by the captain of a merchantman whom he had never before seen or heard of, because of his delight in Fielding's books. In an hotel in America an Austrian waiter, a Viennese, on hearing our son's name, kept slavishly

during his visit at his beck and bow. His name has made him innumerable friends, among the fellow travellers he has met of all nationalities, during years of travel, both in the new and old world.

On our going to Bath I was attended by the first physician there, and on leaving he most courteously refused any remuneration, saying "it was an honour to have been of use to any one belonging to the family of Henry Fielding." "The city of Bath," he said, "felt Henry Fielding peculiarly her own." When meeting the author of "Rab and his Friends," the famous Dr. John Brown of Edinburgh, someone in the room mentioning who I was, he jumped from his seat and asked to be introduced, with such a warm glow in his face, and at once began rhapsodizing on Fielding. Several, R. Kinglake among others, have sought our friendship, giving no other reason than their admiration for this great man. I therefore wish to collect several things that occur to me as most striking from their loveableness about him—things, most worthy of being noted by his, and our, descendants yet unborn. Let us forget the folly

of his youth, seeing that from the time of his marriage he was a most faithful and good husband and father.

As to his genius, that is questioned by none, and nearly all men gifted with genius and position, as he was, are erratic, and not to be judged of as other men. In giving the *daily life* of a man, you do not in the least give *the man*; you can only breathe life into the figures of the past by getting at their inner life, and this life can only come from their own lips. Fielding's lips are opened but seldom as to himself, but "the latest song is the sweetest he sings." There is no pathos in the English language more touching than in his last book, "A Journey to Lisbon," especially in the preface. One is reminded of the thoroughbred race-horse with its head erect to the last, and its action perfect, just because it cannot help it. No one has described this trait in Fielding as Thackeray has in his "Essay on Fielding," where he says, "What a genius! what a vigour! what a bright-eyed intelligence and observation! what a wholesome hatred of meanness and knavery! what a vast sympathy! what a manly relish for life! what a love of his fellow creatures, and what a poet is here!

"Watching, meditating, brooding, creating, as the

word 'poet' means, what multitudes of brave truths has that man left scattered in his writings! He has taught generations to laugh wisely and well. What scholars he has formed, by accustoming them to genuine humour, and with a manly play of wit, to study human nature thoughtfully.

"The wonder of it was how he did it and (for the most part) under endurance of much bodily misery, and pressure of want and care. All this never soured him nor made him morose or melancholy in the least, up to his very end. His view of truth and of life never got warped. He never surrendered his keen interest in the good of his fellow-men, and his generous help to them never stooped to a bribe, when bribery was the order of the day, and he in consequence died a poor man, when he had every opportunity of gain. He said--'I would disdain to touch a penny of such dirty money,' yet he could not help kindness, and profusion in all he did. In short, he was a brave, patient, gentle, and courageous spirit, and intrepid even with the shadow of death over him, was Henry Fielding."

Gibbon says of Henry Fielding in his History—  
"Our immortal Fielding was descended from the

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Earls of Denbigh and Desmond, who are the lineal descendants of the Hapsburghs from Eltrico, Duke of Alsace, 780. Far different have been the fortunes of the German and English divisions of this family of Hapsburgh. The English one rose to be Earls of Denbigh and Desmond, whereas the German branch, from Rudolph, Emperor of Germany, rose to be not only Emperor of Germany but of Spain, threatening the liberties of the old world and invading the new. But if the successors of Charles the 5th ignore their brethren of Hapsburgh in England, the romance of 'Tom Jones,' that exquisite picture of humanity and character, will outlive the Palace of the Escorial, and the Imperial Eagle of Austria."

Henry Fielding's father, General Edmund, was third son of the Honourable John Fielding, whose father was 1st Earl of Desmond. John was Canon of Salisbury, and Chaplain to William and Mary.

Henry Fielding's father married, when he was about thirty, Sara, daughter of Sir Henry Gould of Sharpham Park, Somerset, which house still stands on a gentle slope of a beautiful country.

The following extract from Phelps as to the Gould family has not appeared in any family history of the

Fieldings and may be interesting as regards Henry Fielding's mother :—

### THE GOULD FAMILY.

(*Extract from PHELPS' "ANTIQUITIES OF SOMERSET,"* vol. i., page 560, 1838).

#### SHARPHAM PARK.

"This mansion was built by Abbot Beeres, 14th century.

"The place contained 382 acres, is situated two and a half miles from Glastonbury; it overlooks a wide moorland.

"A portion of the mansion was pulled down in 1799, but an engraving in Warner's 'History of Glastonbury' will preserve the ancient mansion from oblivion. The venerable trees also still remain.

"There was its own private chapel joined to the mansion, which had a hall, parlours, chambers, store-houses, kitchens, and other buildings; it had a stone wall on one side and an oak paling on the other; also orchards and fish ponds. A park round fit to carry 400 deer and 40 large cattle.

"Abbott Whiting was carried from hence to his last trial."

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### THE GOULD FAMILY.

"In 1660 this mansion became the property of the Gould family, by one of whom a considerable addition was made to the mansion, as appears in the initials D. 'G.' on the buildings and on the vane of the house, dated 1783. The Gould who did so had

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his private room on the upper floor, being infirm, so that by making an entrance from it he could attend service in the chapel unseen. The chapel had an east and large window with mullions in the compartments filled with fine stained glass; the subject, our Saviour in the centre and the two Johns either side. The approach to the mansion was through an avenue of noble trees a mile in length towards Shepwick. Parts of it still remain called 'The Abbott's Walk.'

"There is an apartment still left in Sharpham Park, called 'Harliquin's Chamber,' over the old chapel; in it was born, 22nd April, 1707, Henry Fielding, son of General Edmund Fielding and Sara Gould his wife, and daughter of Sir Henry Gould, C. J. of K. B., squire of Sharpham Park.

"Henry Fielding received his early education from Rev. W. Oliver. [Here follows H. Fielding's well known pedigree, ending thus.] His genius has had few successful rivals, and among the many who attempt to copy him now none even remind us of him. The cause of his superiority is to be found in his wit and never-failing flow of humour, as well as unequalled knowledge of humanity.

"Sara Gould, the mother of H. Fielding, had numerous nieces and grandnieces, who severally married Earl Carhampton, Lord Kilcoursie, Earl Cavan—three Archdeacons. These are all to be seen in 'The Gould Pedigree' in Phelps' 'History of Somerset.'"

A nephew of this Sir Henry Gould, also a Sir Henry Gould, was Henry Fielding's great friend at the Bar, and they met together on the Western Circuit. Sir Henry Gould rose to be Judge of the Supreme Court.

Soon after Henry Fielding's birth his parents went to live at their property, East Stour, close to the river of that name in Dorsetshire.

It was here that he as a lad gained that free dauntless character and contempt of all obstacles that followed him through life. For companions he had one brother and several sisters, all educated by the curate of the parish, whom he afterwards depicted as "Parson Trulliber." When about 15 he went to Eton as an oppidan. When he left there he was about 18, and said to be well versed in the Greek authors, and an early master of the Latin classics.

He went from Eton to Leyden University to study law, which he did with remarkable application for two years, when, in 1728, equipped with a first-rate education and high talent, he began life in London, intending to pass as a barrister, but found that cash remittances from his father were few and far between, his father being encumbered with a large second family, so he was compelled to make what money he could, and took to authorship. Thackeray says, "he had good birth, a good education and constitution, a tall stalwart figure, his face handsome, manly,



and noble looking; and to the end of his life he retained a grandeur and dignity of air that, although borne down with bad health in his last years, his aspect and presence imposed respect."

During his early life in London he was as it were the good-humoured diverted spectator of the comedy of life, and declined to see life as anything but a comedy. He makes Tom Jones say to Sophia, "The delicacy of your sex never can comprehend the grossness of ours, nor forgive it," and it is feared at this period his life was rather wild, reckless, and sensual.

Though the estimate of *genius* can be appraised equally in all ages, not so that of *character*, because the standard of morals differs essentially at different periods. The word "civilization," indeed, is defined as "moral development." Had he been a thoroughly prudent man, he never could have given us a "Tom Jones." No doubt Fielding did not lead a very refined life up to his marriage, at the age of 27, but after that he was a faithful, fond husband, and good man, though to the end he was most improvident. "Prodigality" as to money was his besetting temptation, yet through all his poverty

the freshness of wit played round him, and this fine gift of brilliant wit was oftenest used to veil the most profound truths, and sorrowful heart. All this would have been a small matter, had not his heart been as full of human kindness as was his head of brains. His hard-up-ness was often caused by generosity to the impecunious who happened to cross his path, and were worse off than himself. In his early life, on one occasion, he had laboriously stored up money to pay his taxes, and on going to pay them, he met an old friend in a state of starvation, and his store of money at once changed hands. On the taxman calling, he said, "Call again; friendship has had his majesty's taxes."

All his life he had a remarkable capacity for labour and bodily endurance. He published 53 works, thus being a maker or creator of much. His unfailing energy of mind and bright cheerfulness of action was shown when, knowing the hand of death was upon him, he successfully did what no man of robust health, even at this time, could do, viz., cleared London of its bands of murderous robbers, of which every highway was full. In doing this, he said, "I gave my life for my country." He was so

active in his magisterial duties that he used to break into dangerous dens at four o'clock in the morning, putting his life in jeopardy more than once.

The second great step in his career was his marriage. It was a true love one on both sides. The lady was Charlotte Craddock of Salisbury, called "The Flower of Sarum," celebrated for her beauty. He became first connected with Somerset from his grandfather being Canon of Salisbury, and his father marrying the daughter of a Somersetshire squire.

Just at the time of his marriage he inherited the home of his childhood, East Stour, by his mother's death, to which place he took his bride, and where he now spent the happiest years of his life. He kept a pack of hounds here, being a thorough sportsman, having been reared as a boy at East Stour with country tastes.

For eight years he lived a life of bliss with his young wife. This woman was a heroine, if ever one deserved the name; she devoted herself to Fielding with a completeness that left no room in her mind for any other thought. It was a deep affection, which stood the trial of fruitless endeavour and poverty. She was his helpmate, his confidant, his

adviser ; the hours spent with her were often dark ones, but yet he said “ they were the happiest of his life.” In defeat or victory he hurried home to share it with her ; such solitary good as he possessed at this time, and he found in her heart and society, a perfect and profound sympathy. She gave him her help in all his fancies and projects, consoled him in all his cares and perils, made even their sordid life charming by her charms, interesting by her intelligence, and sweet by the vigilant variety of her tenderness. What a thing for such a man as Fielding was it to find his life blessed by such an influence, and for him to feel he could bless her’s. Such a lot, while it lasted, was so perfect that no fame or wealth could rival its delights ; but eight years was all he had of such a companionship, and his friends said his very countenance was altered by his wife’s death, and his health gave way permanently from the anguish of losing her. She did not, however, seem to know the value of money any better than he did, or else loved him too much to prevent him having his way, and his patrimony melting away, they had at last to remove to London, where he again, at the age of 32, began his old life studying for the Bar, and in 1740



**SOPHIA WESTERN AND HER FATHER**  
*(from Leslie Stephen's edition of Fielding's Works).*

he passed as barrister of the Middle Temple, when he was made a Middlesex magistrate.

Two years after this he published his first book, "Joseph Andrews" (1742). On this he spent little time, but on "Tom Jones" (1749) he spent years. It was published in 6 volumes, at 16s. a volume, and the run on it was so great that the printers could not half supply the demand. Never after this was he so hard up. Most of "Tom Jones" was written at Ralph Allens, at Bath. He lived also for a time at a house in Tiverton, near Bath, shown now with "Fielding's House" engraved on it.

His lessons on *Good Breeding* are quite equal to Montaigne's.

His essay on *Conversation* is one that never grows old-fashioned, as he at all times deals in principles, not in fashions. He says in it—"First, let me remark that everyone who indulges in vain, ill-natured remarks, for the amusement of the company, at the expense of others, is thoroughly ill-bred; or those who introduce any subject they know will cause uneasiness, or vexed questions, or *anything* that makes anyone feel confused, is thoroughly ill-bred, however high in station he may

be. Secondly, whoever, from the goodness of his heart, endeavours to his utmost to bring about the good humour of his society, and contributes to the ease and comfort of his acquaintances in company, be that man ever so low in rank, or fortune, or clumsy in demeanour, that man is, in the truest sense of the word, a well-bred man."

As a barrister, Fielding's ill-luck haunted him. It was a dangerous reputation for a barrister then, as now, that of being a wit and literary genius; attorneys were frightened away by it: to hold his position he endured much.

He had chambers at Pump Court, and went on the Western Circuit, where he had many friends and relations, amongst them his mother's nephew, Sir Henry Gould, a judge of note.

Fielding was said to have great aptitude for law, always expressing himself with great clearness and precision, full of information, which was set off by a most fascinating manner and great power. He never knew when he was beaten.

Garrick and Hogarth were ever his devoted friends and admirers, also Lord Lyttleton, who was called "the grave and godly," and who was

his Eton friend and stuck to him through life, and when he heard of his death said, "poor Henry Fielding, he is now at rest with the wife he loved so well."

When Hogarth heard of his death he turned from his easel, with tears for his brave and manly friend, saying, "He is gone"; this inimitable delineator of the manners of our age, full of true wit, dressing nature to perfection, saying what all think, but none so well express; a genuine painter of human life, no copyist of foreign schools, no wearer of cast clothes, no weak sentimentalist, but a straightforward, truth-telling, right-thinking Englishman—a Briton to the backbone. Honour to that manly heart which beats with such high and kindly thoughts. Fielding was to letters what Hogarth was to art. Thackeray says, "Fielding has naturally a passion for truth, a keen instinctive antipathy to hypocrisy, a satirical gift of laughing it to scorn, and his wit being always wise and detective, it flashes upon a rogue and lightens up a rascal as a policeman's lantern."

It will be seen that he was not a martyr to Mammon, for he made himself at home in every



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society and corner of London, where character was to be studied; he was also essentially a man of true dignity and self respect, and at home with the best men of his day as much as with the commonality; cosmopolitan to the back bone; yet through all his varied and busy life he never neglected the study of the classics, and always had his Horace in his pocket. Just when things seemed brightening for him, his beloved wife took fever; all through the illness he tenderly nursed her, but all to no purpose, she left him—dying in his arms, after a short illness. Here he found himself alone in the brick desert of London, a widower at 36 with a family. He fairly broke down in health; his grief, like everything else about him, was in excess, and his friends feared for his reason; his trial was unique, for they had gone through so much together of both joy and sorrow in extremes. Now, as he laid his young wife's mortal remains in the grave, he had to face the world again, he got some consolation in portraying her beauty and charm in his books, as Sophia and Amelia. The introduction to the 13th book of "Tom Jones" is pathetic as to this. He says, "Oh

that I could foretell that some tender maid, whose grandmother is yet unborn, may read this, and see under the fictitious name of Sophia, the real worth that once existed in my Charlotte, and then from her own sympathetic breast send forth a sigh, and give my book a little admiration. Oh that I could foresee, and enjoy, and feed on this future, that when this little parlour in which I sit at this moment shall be reduced to a worse furnished box, my book shall be read with honour by those who never knew me, and whom I shall neither know nor see." Again he says, "Let me teach mankind to learn the good nature, to *laugh* only at the follies of others, and the humility to *grieve* at your own." Thus speaks the man whom Byron styles "the Prose Homer," and "the master of composition." He has had his wish for a little admiration fulfilled to overflowing by many generations; and who can say *he* does not know it *now*? "Tom Jones" has been translated into almost every language, Polish, Russian, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, and wherever the English language is spoken it is to be found.

Lord Montboddo, an able writer, says of "Tom Jones," "We have in this English poem, more of

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character than in any work ancient or modern that I know, though Homer wrote one of the kind, this of Henry Fielding has more personages brought into the story than any of the poetic kind I have seen, all these persons have each a strong character of their own, servant and host alike, each bearing his distinguishing peculiarity; in short, I never saw anything that was so much animated, as I may say, *all alive*, and the manners of the times so cleverly drawn."

He lost several children, whom he nursed in their last illnesses, and of one he speaks of as entering heaven, and he imagines the meeting there—"I met a little daughter of mine whom I had lost years before. Good God! what words can describe the raptures, the melting passionate tenderness with which we kissed each other, continuing to embrace with the most ecstatic joy for a space which, if time had been measured there as on earth, would have been many months."

On leaving his home for the last time when he started for Lisbon, he writes thus: "On this day, June 26, the most melancholy sun I ever beheld rose, and found me awake at my house at Ford-

hook. By the light of this sun I knew I must take leave for ever of my children on earth, and on whom I doted with mother-like fondness. In regard to most things I had learned to bear pain and despise death, but not in regard to this parting could I summon philosophy or conquer nature, therefore I submitted myself entirely to her, and she made as great a fool of me as she ever did of a woman, and instead of enjoying, I *suffered*, the company of my little ones that morning for eight hours, and I underwent in *that*, more than in all my distempers put together ; then I kissed them all, and I went into my coach, which parting required some amount of resolution." Those extracts show what manner of father he was ; and now that I have given somewhat of *the man* in his prime I shall pass on to that concerning the last period of his active magisterial life. It is historical how he, rising from what he called " his dying-bed," cleared London of criminals as his last effort in the public service.

#### BOW STREET.

MR. PERCY FITZGERALD'S latest volumes of entertaining gossip, two in number, form a kind of anecdotic history of the old London police force. He has called them

“Chronicles of the Bow Street Police Office,” and they have just been published by Messrs. Chapman & Hall. He says—“There is little about Bow Street, in general, to tell—the Bow Street that was once the favourite promenade of fashion, and that, at its northern end, ran almost sheer into the fields. But it will not do to linger there or to forget that the true subject of Bow Street is a centre of the thief-catching trade. The new police-office has no associations worth speaking of; its history has yet to be made. The old one that has just disappeared was the cradle of the London police force. It occupied the ruins of a building where *Sir John Fielding*, brother of his brother magistrate *Henry*, the great novelist, lived and dispensed justice till it was burnt over his head in the Gordon Riots. Both the FIELDINGS, in their



BLIND SIR JOHN FIELDING.

successive tenures of the magisterial bench, found London infested with the most desperate ruffians, and left it as safe to live in as any English city could be in their time. HENRY asked for a grant of 600*l.* from the Treasury, and before he had spent 200*l.* of it, had broken up many of the worst gangs. To Sir JOHN we owe the horse patrol that put the highwaymen down, and that afterwards developed into the ‘Bow Street horse patrol’ of the

beginning of the century. Fifty-four of these men, with six inspectors, were considered sufficient for the protection of the London suburbs in 1828. A day patrol of twenty-four men was established by Mr. Peel, as a preliminary to the great measure that has given us the police force as it exists to-day. The detective department had its origin in the famous 'Bow Street Runners,' who were looked on as marvels of executive astuteness in their time, and were supposed to paralyse crime by mere terror."

PERCY FITZGERALD.

About this time he also interested himself vastly in the abject misery of the London poor, and wrote a book called "A proposal for making an effectual provision for the poor"—a book still consulted by those in authority. In it he tells us he had at last schooled himself to regard events with equanimity, striving above all, in what little remained to him of life, to perform the duties of his office efficiently, and provide for those he was so soon about to leave.

The amount this book shows he had done for the poor law was enormous. He had read and considered all its laws since Elizabeth's time; yet, while studying, he said he felt death slowly creeping upon him, and "I think in the decline of my health and of my life, I have conferred by this book on the

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poor law, a lasting benefit on my country. Ambition or avarice can no longer raise a hope, or dictate schemes to me, who can have no further earthly designs, life being so nearly over."

By giving chiefly the pathetic side of his mightily strong character, I hope to inspire some of his young descendants with love for, and the desire to study him, and to fulfil his strong longing for "A little admiration from the Grandmothers yet unborn" (as he expresses it); therefore, with swelling hearts let all be proud of their great progenitor.

He was ordered to Lisbon, and, after seven weeks of a most trying journey, Fielding arrived at Lisbon more dead than alive, but he lingered for two months, tenderly nursed by his wife and daughter, till on October 8th, 1754, aged 47, he died. His latest moments were calm and happy—undisturbed by raking pain, though dropsy, jaundice, gout, and asthma had long been his close companions; he retained the full possession of his every sense, and with his intellect bright and unclouded he entered the higher life jubilantly, as he had lived here, where, under all life's ills, he ever kept a cheerful countenance—born of unselfish courage.

Though he was one of the most distinguished writers of which England can boast, not a foot of English ground covers him. This fact is alluded to in the inscription on his monument now to be seen in the most beautiful of burying places, the Lisbon cemetery. Mr. Brackenbury, the Consul at Lisbon, in 1887 sent my husband a freshly-taken photograph of the monument over Fielding's tomb (which photograph now enriches this book), and with it this letter—

*To T. M. Fielding, Esq.*

H. B. M.'s Consulate, Lisbon,

Jan. 5, 1887.

Dear Sir,—Your great ancestor has moved the smiles and tears of so many generations of Englishmen, and placed his own stamp unfaceably on all English literature, and I am glad to say this photograph I enclose proves conclusively that Mr. Berlases' charge of neglect of the monument is utterly groundless. I wish you could see the English cemetery here in spring, when it is certainly one of the loveliest places in the world—full of lovely flowers and flowering shrubs amidst magnificent old cypresses and other fine trees. If I can in any way serve you, please let me know.

Yours truly,

GEORGE BRACKENBURY.

(G. B. died 1895.)



G. Brackenbury also wrote in 1887—"Fielding's tomb consists of a sarcophagus surmounted by an urn, and resting on an oblong block of marble 14 ft.



HENRY FIELDING'S TOMB.

by 11 ft. On the side next the sun the marble is beautifully white, and the inscription as sharp as if done yesterday. The masonry is as sound and solid

as when erected. Hundreds of years will not affect it, so well is it built and sheltered by two fine cypresses."

The inscription on the tomb is in Latin (an Oxford scholar translated it thus)—

"HENRY FIELDING,

"Was born at Glastonbury, in Somersetshire.

Behold here all that remains of a man

Of the highest natural ability.

"In a style undertaken by no other man so highly qualified he unlocked the heart's secrets and improved men's manners. He ended his life by making virtue beautiful and vice deformed (though in early life he frequently was caught in its snares). He was warm in friendship, generous of soul, relieving all misery, cheerful and polite, beloved both as husband and father, living for others while here he lived, and he still lives, having conquered death.

"While nature lasts, while the ages run their courses, he, by setting forth in his writings the genuineness of nature, will spread far and wide his own fame and that of England.

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“ Britannia laments that her son was not entrusted to her own bosom to cherish. He died at Lisbon, aged 47, in 1754.”

The marble monument over Fielding's grave, at Lisbon, is admired by all. In itself it is beautiful, and its situation is on a hill facing the church of the great Basilica ; in a grove of cypresses, where the climate all the year is perfection, and the nightingales fill the still air with song, and from these trees the place takes its name.

Chevalier de Meyrionnet, at his own expense, put up a monument there soon after Fielding's death, but it decayed away, and the one now standing was placed by his admirers in 1820.

Borrow said, on visiting it in 1843, “ Let travellers devote an entire morning to visiting the miniature ‘Pere la Chaise’ cemetery at Lisbon. They will visit Fielding's grave if they be English, and may be excused if they kiss the cold tomb, as I did, of that great man, the most singular genius which our country ever produced.”

And now let us turn to Fielding's English monument, erected by his admirers in the county of Somerset in 1883.

We visited the spot four years after its erection. The bust of Fielding stands in the most prominent spot of the very handsome Shire Hall of Taunton, that most historically interesting of ancient Somersetshire towns, with its castle ruins and walls of defence, the army's headquarters during many bloody civil wars. As you ascend the grand staircase of the Hall, there, on the left, stands Fielding in pure white marble beautifully sculptured ; a flowing wig of the period sets off his aristocratic features. Within the Shire Hall is hung Brackenbury's photograph of his tomb, and also one of Fielding from the miniature done from Hogarth's (these were sent there by us). There is here a table, of which the following is the history (this has not been made public before) :—Mr. Kinglake, brother of the great historian, mentioned the desire of the county of Somerset to put a monument to Fielding in the Shire Hall to Mr. T. Merthyr Guest of Inwood, Somerset, who married a sister of the Duke of Westminster.

Mr. Guest wrote to him—

I should like to show my interest in honouring Fielding by sending a table used by him ; it is quite at your service when you let me know where you would like it sent.

Fielding lived at East Stour Manor House from his boyhood, and also after his marriage to Miss Craddock of Salisbury; there also he kept hounds (vide Hutchin's "Dorset").

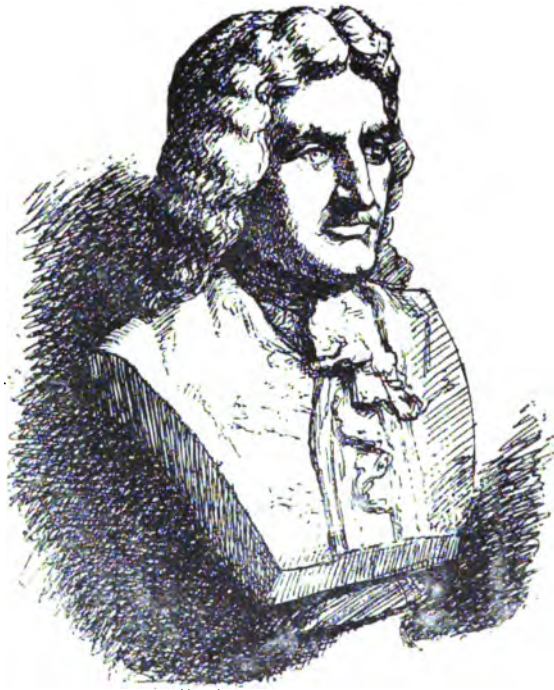
This table remained in the house when it changed hands, and was in it when Richard, Marquis of Westminster, bought it.

It is simply a large oak table with two top leaves, not handsome, but massive.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

MERTHYR GUEST.

Inwood, Nov. 6, 1882.



FIELDING.

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***A Paper on FIELDING—By the Sculptor.***

“DISJECTA MEMBRA.”

“THE illustration here given is a representation of the marble bust which I was commissioned to make of the first of English novelists, erected in his native shire of Somerset, and unveiled by the great American poet, James Russell Lowell, in 1882 ; America, as was fitting, thus uniting with his native land to pay a tribute of admiration to the genius of Fielding. This being at present the only public monument to the *prose Homer of human nature*, a few remarks in those columns of ‘Illustrations’ which are devoted to art, on the circumstances attending its erection, may not be without interest; for do not the honours we strive to render the greatest and best of our kind reflect back on us, and elevate the standard of the whole human race ?

“The tendency of the latter half of the nineteenth century is undoubtedly towards realism. In art, the reaction against the ‘Book of Beauty’ painters, who had charmed our grandfathers and grandmothers, found expression in the pre-Raphaelite movement, the undue influence of which we are

but just escaping from ; and we return, like prodigal children who have grown tired of husks, to the healthy work of Gainsborough and his colleagues. In the literature of fiction we have happily relegated the false sentiment of certain writers to the pages of the weekly periodicals with which Mary Jane beguiles the tedium of the kitchen, and come back to those authors who drew their inspiration from the pure fountain of Nature—to such as dear, garrulous Miss Austen and the master of the English novel, Fielding himself, who, though living in an artificial age, was—like Hogarth in painting—deeply convinced that the artist must be true to Nature, and describe men and things as they really are.

“ Much might be written about the mannerisms of art during the flourishing days of Chantrey and Lawrence. Novel-writing appears, as was but natural, to have fallen under the same blighting influence in the early days of our century, and, indeed, far into the second half. The bombastic nobles of one school of writers, the vapid heroes and heroines of another *et id genus omne*, now live only in the pages of second- and third-rate writers ;



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and the noble literature of English fiction, enriched by the works of Blackmore (in our own day) and of Thackeray, George Eliot, and Dickens (Thackeray and George Eliot were great admirers of Fielding), is the best and purest the world has ever produced.

“To this happy reaction I think we may ascribe the initiation of a subscription for the purpose of doing honour to Fielding by placing his bust amid those of his fellow ‘worthies’ in the Shire Hall at Taunton. In that Valhalla of Somersetshire stand, in the immortality of marble, most of her illustrious sons: Blake, the defender of Taunton; Locke, the great philosopher; Speke, whose African expedition makes a memorable page in the history of geographical discovery; Bishop Ken, the author of the Morning and Evening Hymns; Pym, one of the most conspicuous of English statesmen; Edwin Norris, a distinguished philologist; Charles Summers, the sculptor; and General Jacob, the great Indian hero, and founder of the Scinde Horse. Surely here is a roll of names of which any county might well be proud! In paying this just tribute of renown to her immortal sons, Somerset stands alone in advance of every other county, and even

of London, where, at the present day, there is no public building containing the portrait busts of those whom their countrymen should 'delight to honour,' such as the Vatican Museum in Rome, and the Valhalla, near Munich. Westminster Abbey, whence the hypersensitiveness of our day excludes the effigies of many of our greatest dead, is, on this account, in no sense a substitute for a national collection of busts and statues such as England ought to possess.

"The honour of originating and carrying into execution this remarkable and interesting scheme for enriching the Taunton Shire Hall with such a noble gallery of worthies, as well as the happy thought of adding Fielding to the noble brotherhood of West Country celebrities, belongs to Mr. Arthur Kinglake, brother of the author of the 'Invasion of the Crimea,' who, in 1882, sent out a short circular on the subject; and so great was the interest evinced in this matter by the public (especially by men of letters) and the Press, that, in a short time, the sum necessary for the erection of the bust was procured. The difficulty, then, was, from what sources could an authentic likeness

of the novelist be obtained? and this led to a great deal of correspondence in various papers, during which some most interesting particulars about Fielding were elicited. Two portraits were forthcoming, one only of which was finally available, the miniature being almost certainly a copy of Hogarth's outline profile. This latter, then, was the only authentic likeness of the great Fielding, and it must be received as a perfectly satisfactory one; for Murphy, his earliest biographer, who knew him, says, 'it recalls to all who have seen the original a corresponding image of the man,' and from this the Taunton bust was modelled. Mr. Gunn, in a letter to one of the daily papers, quotes some lines which confirm, in a comical manner, the authenticity of Hogarth's portrait:—

“Here is a verse from a scurrilous epitaph on ‘Mr. Trottplaid’—Fielding's burlesque name, assumed while editing *The Jacobite Journal*. It appeared in *The Old England* newspaper of November 30th, 1748, and was written by a bitter anonymous assailant of Fielding—‘Porcupinus Pelagius,’ or Porcupine Pillage :

‘Beneath this stone  
Lies Trott-plaid John ;  
His length of chin and nose,

His crazy brain,  
Unhumorous vein  
In verse and eke in prose.'

The resemblance, in the features, of the face of George Eliot to that of her great predecessor has been remarked.'

"*The Magazine of Art* for July, 1883, published a facsimile of Hogarth's profile, and an engraving of the bust, together with an essay on the subject of Fielding's latest biographer, Mr. Austin Dobson, whose information on all that concerns the great novelist seems inexhaustible.

"The unveiling of the bust at Taunton was the occasion of one of Mr. James Russell Lowell's most brilliant orations, lately republished in a volume of essays. His summing up is most masterly: 'We may read Fielding's character clearly in his books, for it was not complex, but especially in his 'Voyage to Lisbon,' where he reveals it with artless inadvertence. He was a lovingly thoughtful husband, a tender father, a good brother, a useful and sagacious magistrate. He was courageous, charitable, gentle, thoroughly conscious of his own dignity as a gentleman, and able to make that dignity respected. If we seek for a single characteristic

which more than any would run him up, we should say that it was his absolute manliness—a manliness in its type English from top to toe. It is eminently fitting, therefore, that the reproduction of his features, which I am about to unveil, should be from the hand of a woman.’

“Mr. Austin Dobson, in a poem written for the occasion, has these beautiful lines, which may help us to a just estimate of Fielding’s character:—

Let who has known  
Nor youth nor error cast the stone!  
If to have sense of joy and pain  
Too keen,—to rise, to fall again,  
To live too much,—be sin, why, then  
This was no phoenix among men!  
But those who turn that later page,  
The journal of his middle age,  
Watch him serene in either fate,—  
Philanthropist and magistrate.  
  
Watch him as husband, father, friend,  
Faithful and patient to the end;  
Grieving as e’en the brave may grieve,  
But for the loved ones he must leave;  
These will admit—if any can—  
That ’neath the green Estrella trees,  
No artist merely, but a man,  
Wrought on our noblest island-plan,  
Sleeps with the alien Portuguese.

“He who would know more of Fielding should turn to the pages of ‘Amelia,’ of which Lady Mary Wortley Montague (his cousin) writes in a letter, penned about a week before he was interred in the English Protestant cemetery at the Estrella :—‘H. Fielding has given a true picture of himself and his first wife in the character of Mr. and Mrs. Booth.’

MARGARET THOMAS,  
SCULPTOR OF FIELDING’S BUST—1887.”

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The Taunton monument was unveiled, amongst a distinguished assembly of men of talent, by Mr. Russell Lowell. The speech he made on Fielding was fine, even for him, and since that the Valhalla in the Shire Hall has been a place of pilgrimage, more than ever, of those who have a regard for Fielding, and for men of note and worth.

Mr. Robert Buchanan, in 1769, brought out a comedy called “Sophia, founded on ‘Tom Jones’”; it was (and is now in 1894) received with favour—the dialogue is good, the action bright and swift.

There was also a comic opera of “Tom Jones,”

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by James Reed, and another opera in French, by M. Poinset, 1765.

Here is a letter—interesting, as coming from a Scotchman, and one who is himself an author—“Fielding was one of the first names in English literature that had any attraction for me, therefore I may be prejudiced in his favour. I remember forming the resolve in early life that I would not believe the evil things that were said of him, without real proof. I now have my reward. Henry Fielding is not now considered ‘Tom Jones.’ The real Fielding—Fielding the great and serious artist—is now rising out of the mass of legend and myth in which he has been entombed. False ideas are getting cleared away, and we are beginning to see him what he really was—a singularly attractive, warm-hearted, and buoyant personality. Fielding, the roisterer, the potwalloper, and worse, is gone, and in his place is a singularly loveable man, and, in fact, the greatest of novelists and writers. I speak as an old student of his works. Thackery has done more for his memory than any other man. The bigness of this man seemed to qualify him to appreciate the bigness of the other.”

To see what prejudice can do in warping the mind, this extract from Dr. Johnson's Life may interest, he being Fielding's life-long enemy—

*From Boswell's "Johnson."*

Fielding being mentioned, Johnson exclaimed "He was a blockhead," and upon my expressing my astonishment at so strange an assertion, he said, "And what I mean by his being a blockhead is that he is a barren rascal." Boswell: "Will you not allow, Sir, that he draws very natural pictures of human life?" Johnson: "Why, Sir, it is of very low life. Richardson used to say that, had he not known who Fielding was, he should have believed he was an ostler."

Regarding Fielding's sister Sara, who lived with him on the death of his first wife, and to whom through life he was tenderly attached, little is known, except her works, to some of which Fielding wrote a preface; he even compared some of her characters to those of Shakespeare's—in her "David Simple," and "Ophelia."

She also wrote the lives of "Cleopatra" and "Octavia," and translated "Xenophon's Socrates."

She lived chiefly in Bath and died near it, at Charlcombe, where is a marble tombstone and on it is—



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“SARA FIELDING, Esteemed and Loved ;  
died, 1768; aged, 60 years.

How worthy a nobler monument! but her name  
is written in the Book of Life.”

In Bath Abbey, there is a handsome monument  
to her, placed there by Dr. J. Hoadley, who wrote  
the verses to Hogarth’s “Rake’s Progress,” when  
first published. On the Abbey monument he wrote  
this—

“In this City lived and died

SARAH,

Second daughter of Gen<sup>l</sup>. Edmund Fielding by his  
first wife, daughter of Judge Gould, whose  
writings will be known as incentives to virtue,  
and an honour to her sex, when this marble  
shall be dust.

She was born MDCCXIV., and died MDCCLXVIII.

“Her unaffected manners, candid mind,  
Her heart benevolent and soul resigned,  
Were more her praise than all she knew or thought,  
Though Athen’s wisdom to her sex she brought.

“The Rev. Dr. John Hoadley, her friend, for the  
honour of the dead and emulation of the living,  
inscribes this deficient memorial of her virtue and  
accomplishments.”



REV. ALLEN FIELDING.

*(Youngest son of Henry Fielding.)*

On our going to Bath about ten years ago, we found this monument in a decaying condition, and we had it thoroughly restored at our own cost, and placed in the care of Canon Brookes, the head of Bath Abbey.

Henry Fielding's youngest son, the Rev. Allen Fielding, held two livings near Canterbury, and was Master of Eastbridge Hospital there. His son, grandson, and now his great-grandson, have made Canterbury their home ever since, as the head of the branch of the author's family. He (Allen) was greatly beloved by all, especially the little children. This poem was written by the mistress of the National School of his parish just after his death. He died, April 9th, 1823.

Dearest departed friend of youth!  
With tears we will embalm thy name:  
Thou led'st us in the paths of truth;  
O may we strive to keep the same.  
How kind was he to every child!  
The infants' friend he must be styled.  
He labour'd for our good we know;  
With him it was a constant rule  
That winds and rains, nor frost nor snow  
Should ever keep him from the school.  
Kind benefactor, patron, friend,  
How greatly did he condescend!

Never shall we forget the day  
That he so kindly did provide,  
That we should all enjoy our play,  
And all his little flock should ride.  
What great fatigue he'd undergo  
To profit and to please us too!

Fielding's a name we can't forget  
If we should live to riper years ;  
Our grateful hearts are deep in debt,  
And we can only pay in tears.  
Yes, more than tears we'll strive to do,  
We'll strive his precepts to pursue.

Then he'd rejoice when he looks down,  
And like a guardian angel sees ;  
'Twould add more glory to his crown  
If we were what we ought to be.  
Oh may his pious care succeed,  
And then we shall be bless'd indeed.

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He (Allen Fielding) had five sons at college. One of them, William, died at Cambridge just before taking Holy Orders ; the other four entered the Church, viz., Henry, Charles, George, and Allen. All held livings except Allen, who was chaplain in the Navy, and held the appointment of chaplain of Chatham Dockyard. He, and Henry,

married daughters of Sir John Fagge, Bart., of Mystole, Kent. The second son, Charles, was Vicar of Headcorn in Kent, which living he resigned in 1850, and spent the remaining fifteen years of his life in Dover, giving gratuitous clerical help to those who needed it.



(1) Rev. HENRY FIELDING, Rector of Plean and Nackington, Canterbury.  
(4) Rev. GEORGE FIELDING, Rector of North Ochendendon, Essex.  
(2) Rev. ALLEN FIELDING, Chaplain of Chatham Dockyard.  
(3) Rev. CHARLES FIELDING, Vicar of Headcorn in Kent.

He had a numerous family. The youngest son is Thomas Mantell Fielding, father of Charles William Fielding, who is twenty-ninth in direct male descent in the line of his generations.

An extract from the press at the time of his death, 1866, aged 75, says of him—"The Rev. C. Fielding has been a great loss to Dover. He was on the executive of the Dover Hospital, active in its service, and ever ready to lend a helping hand to alleviate human sorrow and suffering. For seven



THOMAS MANTELL FIELDING.



CHARLES W. FIELDING.

years the Sailors' Home had him for its vice-president. A half-mast flag at that building during this week indicated his loss. But it is in the immediate neighbourhood of his residence his loss will be most felt. There, in many a home visited by disease and want, he poured in the balm of sympathy and generous aid—there, many a cry for help knew well

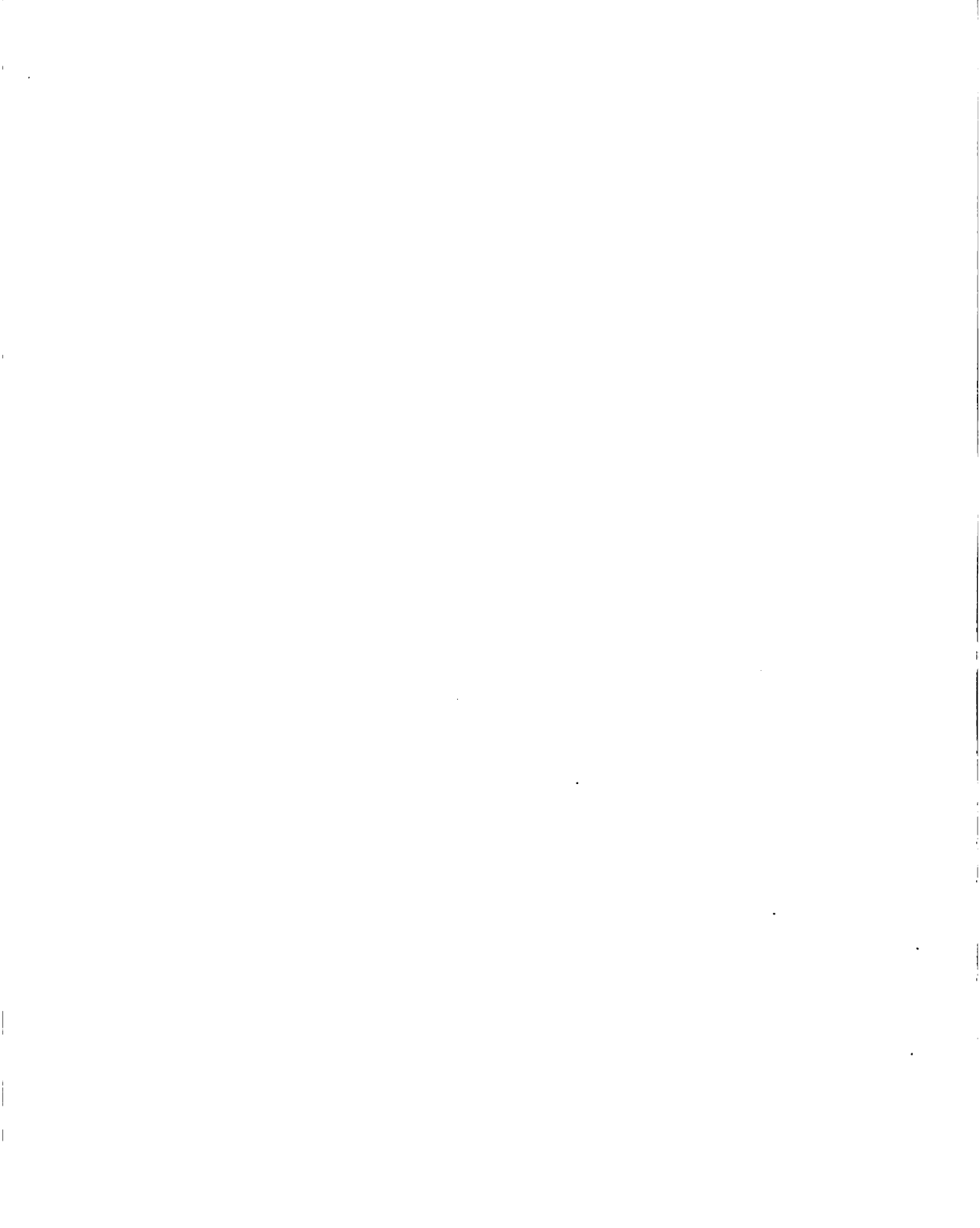
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the response of his footsteps, and knew well the solace of his temporal and spiritual ministrations. Blessed by a comfortable affluence, he had not only a heart that could feel for others, but a heart that lived in giving. He has gone to his rest with the blessing of the poor, and thus has bequeathed to his family a priceless legacy. On Friday last the tomb closed on the remains of a man, often sought but seldom found ; the friend of the friendless and a true Christian gentleman."

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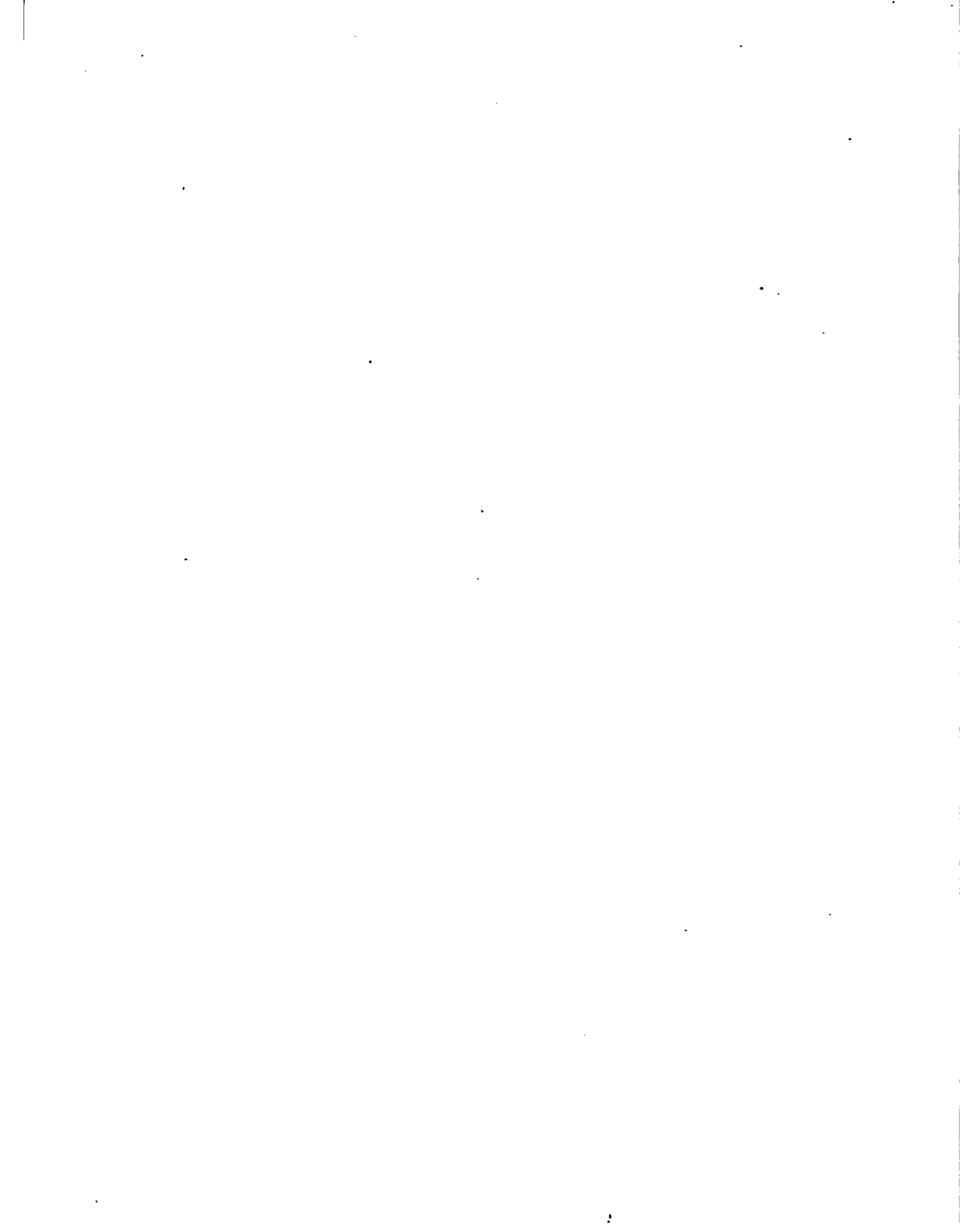
Earl of *Denbigh* :

2nd Earl BASIL = (1) Barbara Lam  
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