



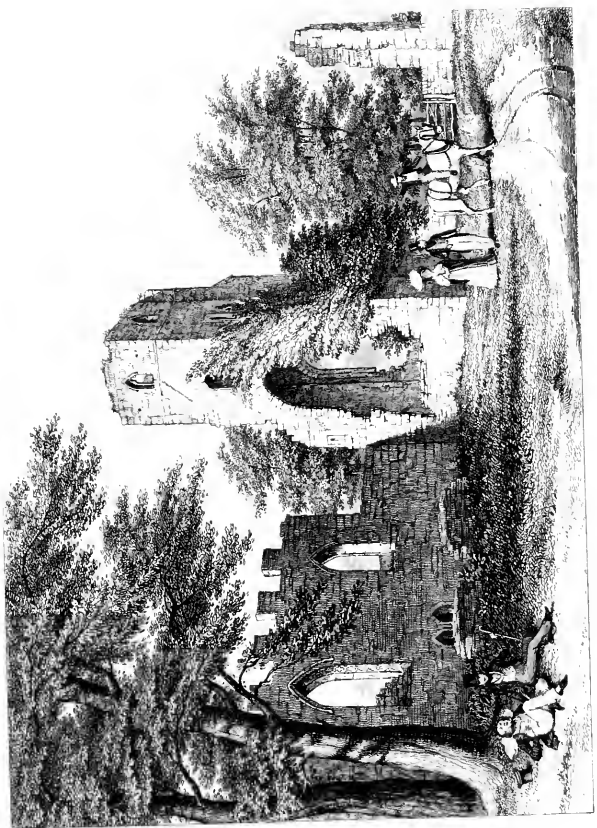
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CHARNWOOD FOREST

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS.

By

T. R. POTTER.



THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
CHARNWOOD FOREST.

BY T. R. POTTER.

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

ON THE

GEOLOGY, BOTANY, AND ORNITHOLOGY
OF THE DISTRICT.

THE GEOLOGY BY J. B. JUKES, ESQ. M.A. F.G.S.;

THE BOTANY BY THE REV. ANDREW BLOXAM, M.A., AND CHURCHILL BABINGTON, ESQ.

SCHOLAR OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;

AND THE ORNITHOLOGY BY CHURCHILL BABINGTON, ESQ.

AH! THAT SUCH BEAUTY, VARYING IN THE LIGHT
OF LIVING NATURE, CANNOT BE PORTRAYED
BY WORDS, NOR BY THE PENCIL'S SILENT SKILL,
BUT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIM ALONE
WHO HAS BEHELD IT, NOTED IT WITH CARE,
AND IN HIS MIND RECORDED IT WITH LOVE.

WORDSWORTH.

LONDON:
HAMILTON, ADAMS, AND Co. PATERNOSTER ROW.
R. ALLEN, NOTTINGHAM; E. ALLEN, LEICESTER.

1842.

R. ALLEN, PRINTER, ALBION OFFICES, NOTTINGHAM.

“CUI DONO LEPIDUM NOVUM LIBELLUM?”

WHAT fitter Name my Book can grace,
Describing CHARNWOOD's ancient Chase,
Than *his*, whose Sires, in olden day,
O'er CHARNWOOD held the Ranger's sway?
Than *his*, whose Hunter's horn yet swells
On CHARNWOOD's hills and CHARLEY dells?
Whose noble mien can still restore
The Chieftain of the days of yore—
Than *his*, who finds in Forest ride
Pleasures to Courts and Kings denied?

My theme is Field and Woodland scene :
Romantic Hill and deep Ravine :
(Such scene, I ween, as that which lies
Where LOUDOUN's time-worn Turrets rise)
Is Nature, with her every charm :
Is “Cottage—Hamlet”—Fane, “and Farm :”
And *he* who “finds this life” more free
“Than that of painted pomp” can be :
Who, with each Sun that gilds them, sees
The shadow of “Ancestral trees,”
Meet Patron for the page must be
Which tells the charms of FORESTRY.

My theme is, too, of War and Chase :
Of Kingly, Lordly, Knightly race—
What Name, like HASTINGS, can recall
The Tented Field—the Banner'd Hall—
The halo that invests them all?

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is no district of England, equally deserving of notice, of which so little has been written, and probably of which so little is known, as CHARNWOOD FOREST. Sherwood, Needwood, Selwood, Inglewood, and almost all other Forests have had their Historian or their Poet, while Charnwood, even in historical and topographical works confined to Leicestershire, has been passed over with as little mention as if it was a blemish instead of a beauty on the face of the County. The best account of Charnwood Forest, that contained in Mr. Nichols' "*History and Antiquities of Leicestershire*," is scattered over nearly the whole of the eight large folios of that valuable and wonderful work, and the scarcity and expense of a copy* render it almost inaccessible to the many. This consideration, and the conviction that the District deserves to be better known, induced the Author of the following pages to collect and arrange all the materials in his power in order to present such a description of the Forest as may, he trusts, blend with details only interesting to the antiquarian and the scholar, a considerable portion of information suited to the general reader. He is anxious to render its picturesque beauties and wonderful geology better known: and to show that it is not less worthy of the Tourist's, the Naturalist's, and the Antiquarian's attention, than many of those districts to which all resort. Another consideration has had weight with the Author:—many of the nobler features of Charnwood, owing to the growth of plantations, the removal of rocks, and the progress of cultivation, are rapidly disappearing; and it seemed desirable, as far as possible, to

" Catch their passing glories ere they fade."

The Author is conscious of some defects of plan and of execution; unavoidable, perhaps, where the prudent limitation of the work was so inadequate to the abundance of materials. Of the plan of the main part—the Parochial History—

* Only one hundred and eighty-seven copies are known to be extant.

he may be permitted to premise that, looking at the feudal possessors of the Forest, it seemed naturally to divide itself into four parts; for each of which he takes the chief Lordship of the respective Lords as a station, viz. :—Barrow, Groby, Whitwick, and Sheepshed. Under these four heads he has introduced almost every parish claiming right of common on the Forest at the Inclosure. Rothley, so interesting for its connexion with the Templars, and forming by its Plain an extension of the Forest, was originally intended to occupy a separate Chapter, but through want of space it is unavoidably omitted. Two or three other places of minor importance are, for the same reason, only cursorily mentioned. The scientific reader is, however, abundantly compensated for these omissions by an Appendix, contributed by three gentlemen not unknown to literature and science, for which the Author was only too happy to make room by the omission of many lucubrations of his own.

It may be well here to make an observation which arrived too late for insertion in its proper place at the beginning of the *Ornithology*, Appendix, p. 65. It was there stated that “eight miles has been taken as the limit of *vicinity*,” both in the Botany and the Ornithology. It should have been added that, with *very few* exceptions, no plant or bird was admitted into the lists which was not found either on the Forest or within a mile or two of its boundary.

Though originally intending to give minute descriptions of the diversified scenery of the Forest, the Author has been compelled, in a great degree, to leave this to the pictorial illustrations. Respecting the fine landscape boundary which the Charnwood range presents from various parts of the Midland Counties, he has been wholly silent. The places in which its beautiful distant outline has often struck him as being seen to the greatest advantage are Nottingham Castle, Hopwell Hall, Rempstone Hall, Normanton Hill, Whatton House, Risley Hill, and the high grounds north of Derby. From some of these points its abrupt western prominences, in the different states of the atmosphere, have something of an Alpine character. It is true that the Forest Hills may not, either when viewed close at hand or at a distance, strictly deserve the epithet which, for want of a better, he has so often applied to them—*picturesque*. Niebuhr correctly observes

that "narrow-minded travellers, who measure everything by the gross scale of a surveyor, ridicule the humbler mountain ranges of other lands by contrasting them with the touring Peaks of the Alps; yet in reality the Alps of Switzerland are not picturesque in their forms."

The Author has further to observe, that in places where he has been under the necessity of abbreviating or expanding any extract from Nichols' History, he has abstained from the insertion of inverted commas, and contented himself with a reference or a general acknowledgment. He has the same observation to make with regard to a passage from Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's Edition of Gilpin, and Mr. Fraser Tytler's "Scotland."

To the REV. M.D. BABINGTON, M.A., who most kindly and most ably examined the proof sheets of a large portion of the Work, and contributed many valuable antiquarian and other remarks—to the REV. ANDREW BLOXAM, M.A., who most liberally furnished the FLORA—to CHURCHILL BABINGTON, ESQ., who aided in that contribution, and also presented the ORNITHOLOGY—and to J. B. JUKES, ESQ., M.A. F.G.S., who wrote the GEOLOGY, the Author's most grateful acknowledgments are justly due.

To Charles March Phillipps, Esq., to William Herrick, Esq., of Beaumanor, to Edward Basil Farnham, Esq., M.P., to Sir William Heygate, Bart., to the Rev. John Dudley, M.A., to the Rev. Richard Gwatkin, B.D., to Ambrose Lisle March Phillipps, Esq., to Thomas Denning, Esq., to Kirkby Fenton, Esq., and to John Stockdale Hardy, Esq., all of whom either furnished valuable information or offered facilities for obtaining it, he has also to express his deep obligations; nor is he unmindful of the assistance rendered him by Mr. E. P. Jackson, Mr. Lester, Mr. George Webster, of Desford, and the Author of "Melbourne." His obligations to Mr. Nichols' great work on the County—a work which, for unwearied industry and extensive research, has no equal in the whole range of Topographical Literature—and to another valuable work, Glover's "Derbyshire," he has elsewhere fully acknowledged.

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

FRONTISPIECE.—RUINS OF ULVESCROFT PRIORY.

VIGNETTE.—ROCK NEAR BEAUMANOR.

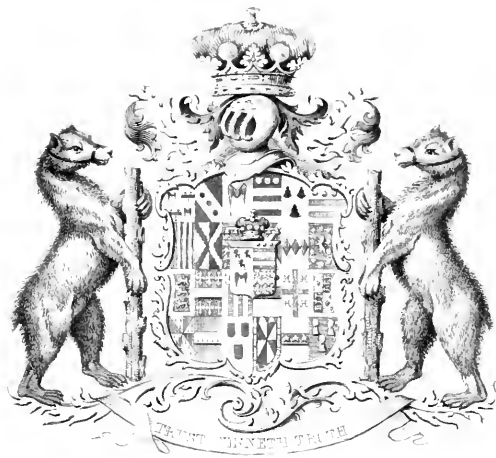
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* The Map is coloured to serve the Geology; the colours correspond with the references on the sheet of Geological Sections prefixed to the Appendix; but instead of tinting the whole of each formation, the *boundaries only* are coloured, in order to avoid obscuring the engraven shades denoting inequalities of surface.



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Earl of Loudoun, Earl of Devon,
Viscount Devon, &c. &c.
one of the Lords of Chancery, &c. &c.
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relative to the public and private affairs,
is more respectfully dedicated
to the Marquis than to the
House of Devon, and more respectfully
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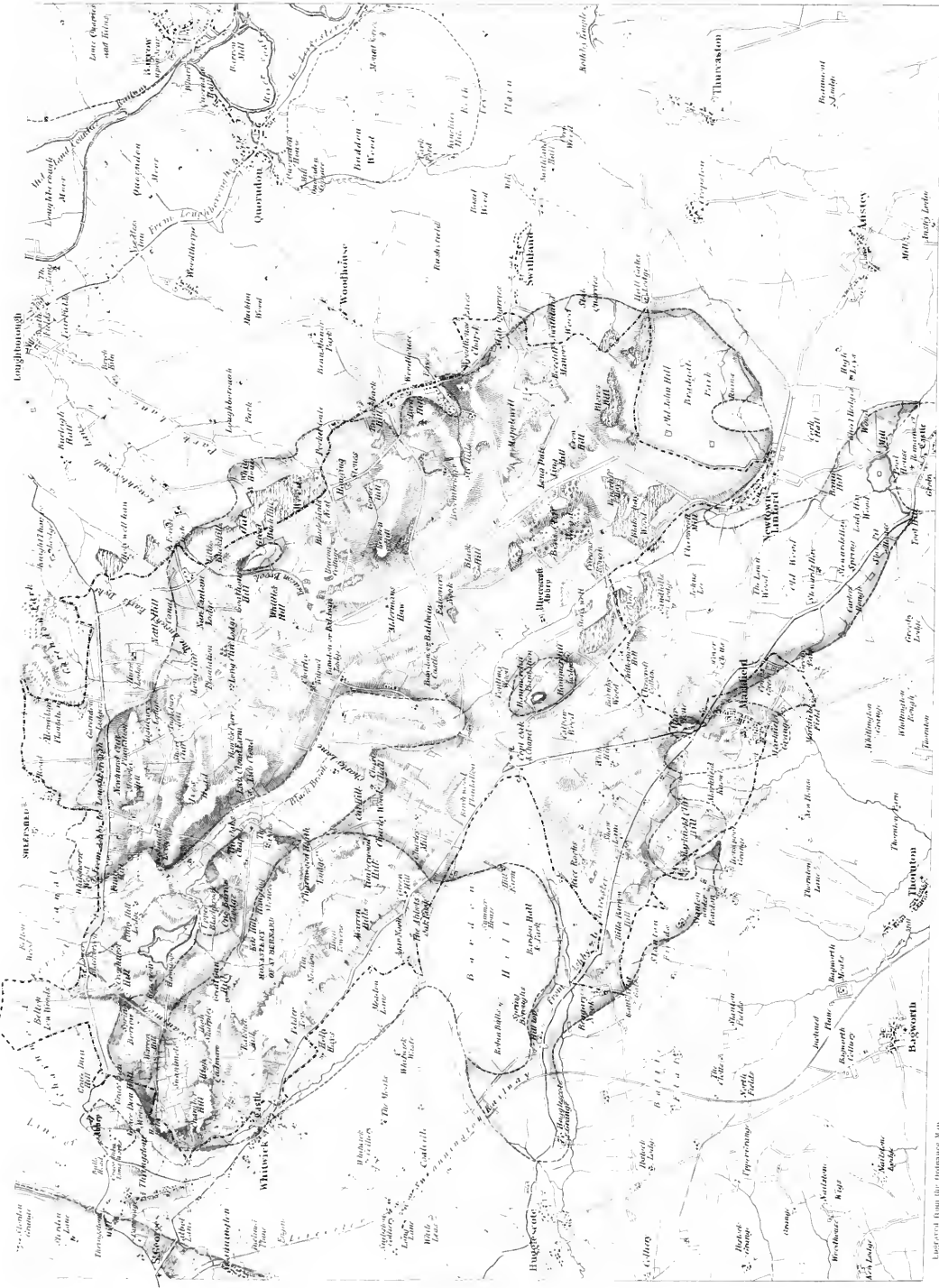
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 Stokes Thomas, Esq. (Mayor), Leicester.
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 Stone Samuel, Esq., Town Clerk, Leicester.
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 Stow Mr. Thomas, Waltham.
 Sutton James, Esq., Shardlow Hall, Derbyshire.
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* * * The Academical Degree of many Clerical Subscribers not being known to the Author, it has been deemed better, in such cases, to omit it, than to run the risk of giving it incorrectly.



MAP OF CHARWOOD FOREST & ENVIRONS.

Engraved from the Ordnance Map with corrections and additions

CHARNWOOD FOREST.

CHAPTER I.

FOREST LAW, COURTS, AND CUSTOMS.

Thus saith the Law:—"It is allowed to our Sovereign Lord the King, in respect of his continual care and labour for the preservation of the whole realm, among other privileges, this prerogative:—to have his places of recreation and pastime wheresoever he will appoint. For as it is at the liberty and pleasure of His Grace to reserve the wild beasts and the game to himself, for his only delight and pleasure, so he may also, at his will and pleasure, make a Forest for them to abide in."

Manwood, on Forest Law, Chap. 2.

FORESTS have ever been in use, in all parts and ages of the world, as the appendages of Royalty. We read of them being thus appropriated even in the times of sacred story. When Nehemiah was in captivity, in the Court of Artaxerxes, and had obtained leave of that Prince to re-build Jerusalem, we read (*Nehemiah* ii. 8.) that Artaxerxes granted him, among other favours, a letter to Asaph, *Keeper of the King's Forest*, to supply him with timber.

"The Royal appropriation of most of our English Forests," says Gilpin, "seems to have been at the least as early as the times of the Heptarchy. Every petty Prince had his Royal demesnes. Afterwards, when one Sovereign obtained possession of the whole island, he found himself proprietor of a number of these Forests, scattered over the different parts of it."

Forest Law and Forest Rights were in force as early as the times of the Saxons: but the Saxon Princes were generally so equitable and so mild, that the afforestation of large untenanted wastes, and the laws enacted for their preservation, were hardly felt as a burden by the commonalty. Under the Norman Princes, all the then existing laws, and especially the Forest Law, assumed a harsher character.

The Conqueror, in 1078, gave orders to lay waste the fertile lands between the Humber and Tees, for the extent of sixty miles. Many flourishing towns, fine villages, and noble country seats, were accordingly burnt down, the implements of husbandry destroyed, and the cattle driven away. The great Lord Lyttleton, speaking of these devastations and those occasioned by the Forest Laws, observes, that "Attila no more deserves the name of the 'Scourge of God,' than did this merciless tyrant: nor did he, nor any other destroyer of nations, make more havoc in an enemy's country than William did in his own."

We, who live under more benign influences, can form no adequate idea of the miseries which Forest Law inflicted, under despotic Princes. Constant encroachments on private property—cruel punishments, for the slightest offence committed within the verge of a Forest—extravagant claims made by Forest Officers—heavy tolls on all merchandize passing through any of the King's Forests—and frequent arbitrary changes of boundaries, to bring any offence within the scope of Forest Law, were only a part of the evils.

Pope beautifully alludes to this state of things in his poem on Windsor Forest:—

" Thus all the land appear'd, in ages past,
 A dreary desert or a gloomy waste :
 To savage beasts and savage laws a prey,
 And Kings more furious and severe than they ;
 Who claim'd the skies, dispeopled air and floods,
 The lonely lords of empty wilds and woods ;
 Cities laid waste, they storm'd the dens and caves,
 For wiser brutes were backward to be slaves.
 * * * * *
 In vain kind seasons swelled the teeming grain :
 Soft showers distill'd and suns grew warm in vain :
 The swain with tears his frustrate labours yields,
 And, famish'd, dies amidst his ripening fields.
 What wonder, then, a beast or subject slain,
 Were equal crimes in a despotic reign !
 Both doom'd alike, for sportive tyrants bled ;
 But while the subject starved, the beast was fed."

These cruel and insupportable hardships, which the Forest Laws inflicted on the subject, rendered our ancestors as zealous for their abolition or reformation, as for the relaxation of the feudal rigours and other exactions introduced by the Norman family. Hence the anxiety of the Barons on this subject at Rummynede. The disafforestation of Charnwood, by Henry the Third, was probably obtained by the influence of the Earl of Leicester and the Barons ; and it should be remembered, that this disafforesting implied little more than exempting the district from the harsher operations of Forest Law.

It would extend these pages to a length unsuited to my design, to enter at large into a history of the *Chartæ de Forestâ* and the other various laws connected with Forests. The reader desirous of further information on the subject, will find all he requires in Manwood. Some account, however, of the ancient Courts, Customs, and Officers of a Forest, may not be out of place here.

The Courts on Charnwood were—the JUSTICE SEAT; the SWANIMOTE, or SWAINMOTE; the COURT OF ATTACHMENT, and COURT OF REGARD. The Justice Seat was presided over by one of the Justices in Eyre,* and was the superior, or Court of Appeal.

The SWAINMOTE (as Nichols prefers spelling the word, from its supposed derivation—a meeting of the swains) was assembled three times a year, and Spelman describes it to be “*Curia Forestæ de rebus et delictis in Forestâ accidentibus.*” The owners of the lordships of Whitwick, Groby, and Sheepshed, only held these Courts: but whether the other lords of the Forest were subordinate to these, or held other Courts, taking cognizance of similar matters, does not appear. Like all Courts of high antiquity, the SWAINMOTE was held in the open air; that of Whitwick, near Sharpley rocks, where the place may still be traced; that of Groby, at Copt Oak; and that of Sheepshed, on Ives Head.

The COURT OF ATTACHMENT, or Woodmote, was kept every forty days: at which the Foresters brought in the attachment *de viridi et venatione* and the presentments thereof, which the Verderors received and enrolled—but that Court could only inquire, not convict.

The COURT OF REGARD, or survey of dogs, was holden every third year, for expeditation or lawing of dogs, by cutting off to the skin three claws of the fore feet, to prevent their running at or killing the deer. No other dogs but mastiffs were to be thus lawed, because it was supposed these only were necessary for the defence of a man's home.—(4 Inst. 308.)

The Chief Officer of the Forest was the Lord Warden. I have never met with any mention of this officer with reference to Charnwood: but as the Constable of any Castle in a Forest was the Lord Warden, it is probable that the office was held by the Lords of Whitwick, Mountsorrel, or Groby Castles.

A VERDEROR was a judicial officer of the Forest, chosen by the freeholders of the county, by the King's writ; his office was to observe and keep the assizes or laws of the Forest, and view, receive, and enrol the attachments and presentments, and make presentments of all trespasses of the Forest, of vert and venison, and to do equal right and justice to the people. The Verderors were the chief judges of the Swanimote, although the Chief Warden or his deputy usually sat there.—(4 Inst. 292.)

The REGARDERS were to make regard of the Forest, and to view and inquire of offences, concealments, defaults of Foresters, &c. Before any justice seat was holden, the Regarders had to make their regard, and go through the whole Forest. They were ministerial officers, appointed by letters patent of the King, or chosen by writ to the Sheriff.

The FORESTERS were sworn officers, and their duty was to watch over vert and venison, and to make presentments of all trespasses. A Forester was also taken for the Wood Ward: and every Forester, when called at a justice seat, had to kneel and present his horn, while the Wood Ward knelt and presented his axe.

* Justices in Eyre were instituted by Henry the Second, in 1184, and their Courts were formerly held very regularly: but the last Court of Justice seat of any note was that holden in the reign of Charles the First, over which the Earl of Holland presided—the rigorous proceedings at which are reported by Sir W. Jones. After the Restoration another was held, *pro forma* only, before the Earl of Oxford; but since the revolution of 1688, many of the Forest Laws have fallen into disuse.

An AGISTER'S office was to attend upon the King's woods and lands, and receive and take in cattle by agistment, that is to depasture within the Forest or to feed upon pannage.

A RANGER'S proper office was to rechase the wild beasts from the *purlieus* into the Forest.

The proper times for hunting the various beasts of the Forest were limited thus:—

That of the hart or buck began at the Feast of St. John the Baptist and ended at Holy-rood day; that of the hind and doe began at Holy-rood and ended at Candlemas; the chase of the boar began at Christmas and ended at Candlemas; that of the fox began at Christmas and continued till Lady-day; and that of the hare began at Michaelmas and ended at Candlemas.—(*Dyer*, 169.)

It is right to observe here, that Burton (p. 71 of his Description of Leicestershire) asserts that “this Forrest of Charnewood, never since the de-afforestation thereof by Henry III., hath had any game or gard thereto.” If by these expressions he intended to imply that there never had been any resumption or restoration of Forest privileges, the following pages, and especially the following extract, will prove that he was in error:—

“The whole Royalty of the Forest, or Chace of Charnwood (as touching the Swanimote Court), doth belong to these three manors—Sheepshed, Groby, and Whitwick: and all the four Rangers of this Forest do hold lands of these three manors, to perform their office of Rangers and by other services, viz.: Mr. Holt, of Hathern, and Mr. Eyre, of Belton (for his lands in Whatton), two of the Rangers, do hold of the manor of Shepeshed (viz.: Mr. Holt, of my Lord of Rutland's manor, and Mr. Eyre, of Mr. Davenport's manor), and Mr. Danvers, of Swithland, one of the other Rangers (holds his lands in Swithland), of the manor of Groby. Warner, of Markfield, the fourth Ranger, holds of the manor of Whitwick. Every one of these townships or manors ought to have a drift within the liberty of *their own manor only*, and not to usurp any drift within the manor of Shepeshed; *sic è contra*. Neither are the tenants of these three townships compellable to come to any Swanimote but such as is kept for the township or manor whereof they are tenants. And therefore Mr. Holt and Mr. Eyre do wrong to their Lords to appear, and their offices of Rangers, at Whitwick Swanimote. And my Lord of Rutland's freeholders and commoners do wrong to their Lord to appear at Whitwick Swanimote; whereas they should only appear at Shepeshed Swanimote, when any is kept. Also, it is wrong that Shepeshed tenants and commoners should be amerced at Whitwick Swanimote, as they have been of late: and now at the last Swanimote, divers of my Lord of Rutland's tenants, and Mr. Davenport's, of Shepeshed Lordship, are amerced, and like to be distrained upon, if my Lord of Rutland do not crave of my Lord of Huntingdon that he will forbear to distrain them for the aforesaid causes, until a right course be concluded between them by friendly agreement.”

This extract was transcribed by Mr. Peck, in 1730, from an old manuscript at Garendon: and though it shows that some irregularity had arisen in the holding of these Forest Courts, yet it incontestably proves that, even so late as the period when Garendon was in possession of the Rutland family (about 1621), the Swanimote, at least, exercised its powers.

CHAPTER II.

WOODY STATE OF THE FOREST DOWN TO THE MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

“That wonderful and almost unknown tract of country, Charnwood Forest.”—*Nichols' West Goscote*, p. 918.

“Neque enim ullis accedere major
Possit honos densâ quam nubilis arbore lucus.
Sylvarum studiosa, suos cùm Gallia quondam
Vix aleret cives, patriâ migrare relictâ,
Atque peregrinos aliò deferre penates
Maluit, *excisis* victum quàm quærere *sylvâs*.
Hæc ubi jam nemorum reverentia tanta bipennes
Ut teneat? nostros ubi grandior ulla per agros.
Quercus ad annosam, ferri secura, senectam
Durat? inaccessis nisi consita montibus, ipso
Se defensa loco tueatur; si qua supersunt
A patribus memora ad seros transmissa nepotes
Illa nec æstivo frondent impervia soli
Nobile nec cælo caput abdunt qualia quondam
Vulgus adorabat truncis procerâ verendis
Sed veteri de stirpe novo surgentia ramo
Et quatuor post lustra nigros visura caminos,
Vix lepori hospitium præbent, sylvestribus olim
Quæ timidâ latebris damas ursosque tegebant.”—*Fanier, Præd. rusticum*.

To persons totally unacquainted with the district called Charnwood Forest, the word “Forest” will convey very erroneous ideas of the locality.—“Why is Charnwood, in which there is scarcely a tree, called a *Forest*?” asked one who had long lived within the shadow of its beautiful hills. “Not for the reason for which the Latins have been said to have given a grove its name,” (*lucus à non lucendo*) was the prompt and proper reply. Time was when those bare hills, as well as the valleys at their feet, were covered with majestic oaks—when, to use the words of an old tradition, “a squirrel might be hunted six miles without once touching the ground; and when a traveller might journey from Beaumanor to Bardon, on a clear Summer’s day, without seeing the sun.”

The names of Woodhouse, Woodthorpe, the Outwoods, Timberwood Hills, and Charnwood, are all plainly referrible to the period when the Forest was clothed with wood.—We

shall endeavour, in the following pages, to trace the changes which the hand of time, or that of man, has wrought. The lover of Nature in her undisturbed wildness, and the votary of

“The calm retreat—the quiet shade,”

may grieve over many of these changes, but he will find much to compensate for them in the conversion of an immense tract of almost unproductive land into fertile fields, increasing our agricultural supply, and greatly adding to the wealth of the proprietors, and to the comfort of the denizens of the Forest. It will be some consolation, too, to find, that though there are some proprietors utterly regardless of the preservation of the natural beauties of the district, there are others so careful of them as not to permit any consideration of pecuniary advantage to induce them to efface the grand and wonderful works of Nature, or the ancient handy-work of man.

The name Charnwood is probably derived from Quern, a hand-mill: as rough stones, suitable for making these mills, were found in many parts of the Forest. Dr. Gale, however, thinks the name derived from Guern, an alder, and considers that Querendon, or Quernodon, had the same derivation.* The name Aller, or Alder Carr, is, perhaps, somewhat corroborative of this latter etymology.† The alder‡ is still found in many parts of Charnwood. In the lower grounds it was probably in former days, as now, the most common tree, and its early-known suitability for charring, and for many ordinary purposes, may have given it an importance which it has long ceased to possess. It should be remembered, too, that Charley is, by many old writers, written Chamley, and the terminations *ley* and *wood* only show the difference between the open and the timber-covered ground. Charnwood was, however, at a period long anterior to the Norman Conquest, clothed with all the various kinds of trees found in a natural Forest, and the undulating surface of the ground must have imparted unusual beauty to the woodland scene. No person at all alive to the effects of foliage, can have failed to notice the superior charm of trees growing on declivities, over those growing on flat surfaces. Such an observer will easily draw on his imagination for a picture of sylvan Charnwood, when Nature, and not the hand of man,

“Hung with woods yon mountain’s sultry brow.”

Milton describes the woody boundaries of EDEN as possessing this advantage of a rising stage for the display of foliage.

————— “the champain head
Of a steep wilderness, whose hairy sides
With thicket overgrown, grotesque and wild—
A sylvan scene; and as the *ranks ascend*
Shade above shade, a woody theatre
Of stateliest view.”

* *Quernmore* Forest, Lancashire, doubtless owes its name to the same origin.

† See Gough’s Additions to Camden.

‡ Gilpin describes the alder as “flourishing in the poorest Forest swamps, and perhaps the most picturesque of any of the aquatic tribe except the weeping willow.”

A district of ten miles in length and about six in breadth, almost wholly covered with trees and rocks, and containing, perhaps, in early times, many temples of the Druids: the abode, certainly, of those awful and honoured priests of a mystic and imposing form of religion, must doubtless have been of considerable importance to the ancient inhabitants of the country. Charnwood formed part of the ancient Celtic Forest of Arden, which extended from the Avon to the Trent, and the Leicestershire portion was bounded on the east by a line running through High Cross to Barton, in Nottinghamshire. Many of the finest scenes in Shakspeare are laid in the Forest of Arden; and as Leicester is supposed to have been founded by Lear, and the seat of his Government, I have sometimes pleased myself with the fancy (especially when I have been in the midst of a pelting storm on the Forest) that Charnwood might have been "the heath" on which Shakspeare *imagined* Lear's exposure to the storm. That the Romans were well acquainted with it is placed beyond conjecture, by the circumstance of a Roman road intersecting the Forest; by the recent discovery of Roman coins and earthenware, and by the station or stations which, it is presumed, will be acknowledged to have been fixed on one or more of the hills in the Forest range.

I have somewhere read, but regret that I cannot now recollect my authority, that when William the Conqueror first broached his design of making the New Forest, some courtier, out of pity to the Hampshire villagers, urged the King to make Charnwood his hunting Forest; and that William sternly asked the remonstrant "whether it was wished that he should break his neck? as he understood Charnwood was full of rocks and caves."

Doubtless the Forest was of great note in the feudal times, when hunting the deer was the chief pastime of the nobles, and when laws much more stringent than our present Game-laws were in force with regard to Forests. The killing of a boar, a deer, or even a hare, indeed, was punished with the loss of the delinquent's eyes, at a time when the killing of a man might be atoned for by paying a moderate fine. Outlawry was also a very frequent punishment for offences of this nature. Scott makes John of Brent say—

An outlaw I to Forest Laws,
And merry Needwood knows the cause.

Robin Hood may often have tried the quality of the deer on Charnwood, when Sherwood had too many of the King's men.* At all events, the Forest was in those times frequently enlivened by the hunter's horn, and relieved by the "Lincolne green."

Deer, goats, wild hogs, wild sheep, and wild cattle, with all the varieties of the feathered tribe, abounded in the Forest: and previous to the time of Edgar, the district was greatly infested with wolves. Some idea of its state in the 13th century may be formed from the following notes, partly taken from a Perambulation of Shepeshed, taken at Whitwick Castle, Nov. 29th, 1289 (*temp. Edwardi primi*):—"Such part of the Forest as lay within the precincts of Barrow, contained a wood, one mile long and four furlongs broad. Other parts are undoubtedly included under Loughborough, where the wood was seven furlongs long

* It is remarkable that there is a spot on the south of Bardon Hill still called Robin, or Robin's Butts.

and three broad; under Shepeshed, where the wood was one mile long and five furlongs broad, and where it was expressly stated that Godwin, the King's tenant, held also fifty acres of meadow (probably the site of Garendon Park); under Belton, where the wood was a mile long and half a mile broad; under Whitwick, where the wood was a furlong in length and half a furlong broad, and where the Earls of Leicester had a Castle, a considerable Park, and a Manor, to which many of the neighbouring villages are still appendants; under Ovetone (probably that part of Cole Orton called Thringstone), where a ploughed land lay waste; under Stantone, where the ancient wood was five furlongs long and two broad, and in another part (Bardon) were four acres of wood; under Markfield, where the wood was six furlongs in length and three broad; under Grobi (including the site of Newtown and Bradgate), where the wood was two miles long and half a mile broad; under Turcheleston (Thurcaston), perhaps including also Swithland, which is not separately noticed in Domesday, where the wood was two miles long and half a mile broad; and under Anstey, where the wood was a mile long and half a mile broad."

It should be observed that these parts of the Forest called woods, of so many miles and furlongs, were inclosures for the *particular* preservation of the beasts of the chase; and it is not hence to be inferred that these were the *only* woodland parts. Poldore Virgil informs us, that even so late as Henry the Seventh's time, "*Tertia propemodum Angliæ Pars pecori aut cervis, damis, capreolis, cuniculisve nutriendis relicta est ineulta, quippe passim sunt ejusmodi ferarum vivaria, sen roboraria quæ ligneis roboreis sunt clausa; unde multa venatio, quâ se nobiles cum primis exercent.*"—These "roboraria" probably meant fenced woods, like those above alluded to.

Leland states that, in his time (the middle of the sixteenth century), this Forest "hadde plentye of woode."

Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Oxford, who wrote in the seventeenth century (about 1620), mentions in his *Iter Septentrionale*, that he and his companions were lost in the mazes of Charley Forest, on their route to Bosworth Field.

Nichols believes that, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, great quantities of timber were certainly growing: citing in proof of it the prevailing tradition, and the concurrent testimony of aged people.

A still stronger proof of the abundance of timber on Charnwood, in the 17th century, may be found in an original document at Beaumanor (1673), which states that "William Heyrick, Esq., the elder, and William Heyrick, Esq., the younger, sold to Humphrey Jennens, Esq. (afterwards owner of Gopsall), 6090 oak and ash trees, within Beaumanor liberty, on the Forest of Charnwood, from Loughborough Lane, near the Mile-cross, to the north-east corner of Charley Lane, and on by Oldfield House, and Oldfield Wood Corner, for the sum of £1,178." The elder trees, crab trees, and hollies, with the alder trees growing along the Carr Brook, were to be left standing, and twelve years allowed for clearance.

The acorn harvest and pannage for hogs, of which we find frequent mention in the old conveyances of property bordering on the Forest, are proofs that Charnwood was not only well wooded, but that it abounded in oaks.



H J G H C A D E M A N.



THE OAK TREE.

A poet's testimony to the sylvan beauties of *Charnwood*, in the seventeenth century, may not inappropriately be introduced here. The description acquires additional value for at least poetical accuracy, from the circumstance of the writer having been a visitor at *Beaumanor* and *Garendon*, and consequently thoroughly acquainted with the Forest.

“O *CHARNWOOD*, be thou called the choicest of thy kind:
 The like, in any place, what flood hath hapt to find?
 No tract in all this isle—the proudest let it be,
 Can show a sylvan Nymph in beauty like to thee—
 The Satyrs and the Fauns, by Dian set to keep
 Rough Hills and Forest Holts were sadly seen to weep,
 When thy high-palmed harts—the sport of boors and hounds,
 By gripple Borderers' hands were banished thy grounds.

 The Dryads that were wont about thy lawns to rove,
 To skip from wood to wood, and scud from grove to grove,
 On *SHARPLEY* that were seen, and *CADMAN*'s ancient rocks,
 Against the rising sun to braid their silver locks,
 And with the harmless elves on heathy *BARNON*'s height,
 By *Cynthia*'s golden beams to play them night by night;
 Exiled their sweet abode, to common bare are fled—
 They with the oaks that lived, now with the oaks are dead.”

But notwithstanding this classical lament over the departure of the former glories of *Charnwood*, the same good old bard goes on to show that, in spite of all it had lost of its pristine loveliness, it was still his *beau ideal* of all a Forest ought to be.

“Who will describe to life a Forest, let him take
 Thy surface to himself—nor shall he need to make
 Another form at all, where oft in thee are found
 Fine sharp but easy hills, which reverently are crown'd
 With aged antique oaks, to which thy goats and sheep
 (To him that stands remote) do softly seem to creep,
 To gnaw the little shrubs on their steep sides that grow;
 Upon whose other part, on some descending brow,
 Huge stones are hanging out, as tho' they down would drop,
 Where under-growing oaks on their old shoulders prop
 The others' hoary heads; which still seem to decline.
 And in a *Dimble* near* (even as a place divine
 For contemplation fit), an ivy-ceiled bower,
 As Nature had therein ordain'd some Sylvan power;
 As men may very oft at great assemblies see,
 Where many of most choice and wond'ring beauties be—
 For stature one does seem the bell away to bear,
 Another for her shape to stand beyond compare;
 Another short of these, yet for a modest grace
 Before them all preferr'd.—————

Amongst the rest yet one
 Adjudg'd by all to be a perfect paragon:

* Probably the Hermitage, near *Sharpley* rocks.

That *all those parts in her* do altogether dwell,
 For which the others do so severally excel.
 My Charnwood, like the last, hath in herself alone
 What excellence can be in any Forest shown."—*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

Crow Hill, near Woodhouse Eaves, probably took its name from a rookery. The old trees, many of them twenty feet in circumference, were sold by an Earl of Stamford to the charcoal burners at Melbourne, and after being charred on the Forest, the charcoal was removed thither in bags, laid on horses.—(*Nichols.*)

Bens Cliff, near Maplewell, was known to have been covered with oaks about 1745.* From this period the Copt Oak, the Outwoods, White Horse Wood, the oaks growing in Bradgate Park, and about Charley Hall, are nearly the only vestiges of the ANCIENT FOREST.

It is not, however, improbable, that there are still some oaks, among the few remaining on Charnwood, that were growing at a period little less remote than the Norman Conquest. The trees to which I should be inclined to assign such a longevity are the COPT OAK, one or two on the skirts of the OUTWOODS, and some in BRADGATE PARK.

Several oaks lately felled in Sherwood Forcst, exposed, on being sawn up, the date 1212, and the mark or cipher of King John; and it has been calculated that these trees must have been several centuries old at the time the mark was made.

It is well known that the oak that proved fatal

“To that Red King, who, while of yore
 Thro' Boldre-wood the chase he led,
 By his loved Huntsman's arrow bled,”

was standing a few years ago in the New Forest. They who think a tree insufficient to record a fact of so ancient a date, “should be reminded,” says Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, “that seven hundred years make no extraordinary period in the existence of an oak.” Indeed, some authors have calculated with great ingenuity, and with considerable show of truth, that some old oaks now, or lately, existing, may have been growing for centuries before the *Christian era*. Some noble oaks, a few years ago blown down in Donington Park, were supposed, by their internal rings, to have been nearly eight hundred years old.

* Nichols' East Goscote, page 135.

CHAPTER III.

TERRITORIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FOREST.

BURTON describes Charnwood Forest as "lying upon the north-west side of the countie of Leicester, neere unto Loughborough; in forme somewhat square, of an hard and barren soyle, full of hills, woods, rocks of stone, torres and dells of a kind of slate. This Forrest hath bene very anncient, long before the Conquest, as all Forrests of England were excepting two."..... "It should seeme," he adds, "that this Forrest (as many others in this realme) had been disafforested presently after the Conquest: and that by King Henry the Second it was afforested againe; which by King Henry the Thirde, his grandchilde, was again disafforested, as by his deede, afterwards exemplified by King Henry the Sixth, may appeare."

To Burton's description of the situation of the Forest, it is only necessary to add, that it is in the Hundred of West Goscote, and that it comprises a considerable portion of the triangle formed by the towns of Leicester, Loughborough, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Charnwood is not often termed a Royal Forest, though it doubtless had as good a claim to that appellation as others that were so: and it has been held by several Sovereigns, and conferred, at various times, either as a whole or in parts, on their favourites. Sherwood is almost invariably honoured with the prefix of "Royal," which it retained from the circumstance of King John and other Sovereigns having had a hunting palace within its limits. Strictly speaking, however, a Forest cannot be in any other hands but the King's, "as he only hath power to grant a commission to any one to be a Justice in Eyre of the Forest." Hence all Forests were Royal Forests: "though, under a particular Grant, a subject may have a Forest in law."* The Conqueror, who did not hesitate to appropriate to himself *fourteen hundred manors*—and who actually granted *sixty-seven in this county to one favourite*; and his successors, who frequently replenished their coffers by unjust attainders, did not omit to secure the interest of their partisans by grants of portions of this district.

To trace how the Forest or its privileges passed to the Grentemaisnells, the Earls of Chester, Leicester, Winchester, the Comyns, the Beaumonts, the Ferrers', the Greys, the Hastings', &c., &c., will now be done with as little documentary detail as is compatible with the plan of a work professing to be, in any degree, historical.

The extensive lordship of BARROW, which includes a considerable portion of what may be called the Eastern Forest, viz.: Quorndon, Woodhouse, Beaumanor, Alderman's Haw, &c., to the boundaries of Sheepshed and Whitwick, was given by the Conqueror to his nephew,

* 4 Inst. 316.

Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester.* This Earl held also the manors of Mountsorrel and Loughborough, which still further extended his rights on the Forest.†

A little attention to the descendants of Hugh Lupus, of Hugh de Grentemaisnell, &c., will account for many ancient, and perhaps for some present tenures of parts of the Forest. It will explain, too, how the Comyns became located on Charnwood, and throw light on the cause of the disputes and fines (noticed further on) between the Earl of Arundel and the Earl of Winchester, or Winton, and between the Earl of Arundel and Roger de Somery, respecting the right to hunt, &c., on certain parts of the Forest. On these subjects a considerable degree of misconception prevails, which the statements in Nichols, being diffused over many parts of his work, do not greatly tend to remove.

RANULPH DE BLONDEVILLE, sixth Earl of Chester, died in 1232, and left no issue; his estates therefore devolved on his four sisters, who were—

I.—MATILDA, who married David, Earl of Huntingdon, and by him had a son, John the Scot, the last Earl of Chester, who died without issue, and four daughters, viz. :—

1. Margaret, married to Alan de Galloway, whose daughters, Dervogoyl and Marjory, married respectively John Baliol and John Comyn.
2. Isabella, wife of Robert Bruce, the elder.
3. Matilda, (s. p.)
4. Ada, married to Henry de Hastings.

II.—MABEL, married to William d'Albini, Earl of Arundel, by whom she had Hugh, who died without issue (27 Henry III.), and four daughters, viz. :—

1. Mabel, married to Robert de Tateshall.
2. Nichola, to Roger de Somery, feudal Lord of Dudley, by whom she, too, had four daughters, viz. :—
 1. Margaret, married to Ralph Lord Basset.
 2. Johanna, to John L'Estrange.
 3. Mabel, to Walter Sulley.
 4. Matilda, to Sir Henry Erdington.
3. Cicely, married to Robert de Monte-alto.
4. Isabella, married to John Fitz-Alan.

III.—AGNES, married to William de Ferrars, Earl Ferrars. Their son, William de Ferrars, Earl of Ferrars and Derby, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Roger de Quincy; from which marriage descended two sons, viz. :—

1. Robert, Earl of Ferrars and Derby; deprived of his earldom and estates in 1265, for taking part with Simon Montfort, Earl of Leicester.
2. William de Ferrars, Lord of Groby by gift from his mother.

IV.—HAWISIA, married to Robert de Quincy, son of Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, and brother of Roger, second and last Earl of that family.

* The dual houses of Rutland and Devonshire derive their descent from Ranulph de Gernons, fourth Earl of Chester.

† In the Grant of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, to Garendon Abbey, he says, "per forestam meam quæ pertinet ad Feodum de Barwâ."

Cotemporary with Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, was another Norman follower and favourite,

HUGH DE GRENTEMAISNELL.

On him William conferred almost unbounded favours: and amongst others, the restored Castle of Leicester, together with the office of Vicecomes of the County, and the title of Baron of Hinckley, as well as Castles and possessions in Groby, Whitwick, &c.

Hugh's third son, Ivo de Grentemaisnell, together with other powerful Barons, invited over, in 1101, Robert, the eldest son of the Conqueror, to dispute the possession of the English throne with his brother, Henry the First; and, by this act of rebellion, lost most of his estates, as well as his Castles in Leicestershire. They were given by Henry the First to

ROBERT BELLOMONTE,

EARL OF MELLENT (IN NORMANDY)

in his own right, and created Earl of Leicester by Henry. To him succeeded, in 1118, his second son,

ROBERT BOSSU,

SECOND EARL OF LEICESTER,

the great founder of several religious houses in the county, and, by his charity and other virtues, well deserving his distinctive appellation of "The Good Earl of Leicester." He died in 1168, and was succeeded by his son,

ROBERT BLANCHMANS,

THIRD EARL OF LEICESTER,

who, with the Earl of Chester, in 1173, openly declared war against Henry II., in favour of young Henry: but, after repeated acts of rebellion, was pardoned. He married Petronilla, or Parnell, daughter of Hugh de Grentemaisnell; and hence his son, by whom he was succeeded in 1189, was called

ROBERT FITZ-PARNELL,

FOURTH EARL OF LEICESTER.

He died without issue (*Nichols, Vol. I., p. 98.*): so that his two sisters, Amicia and Margaret, became his co-heiresses.

AMICIA, married to Simon de Montfort, in right of his wife fifth Earl of Leicester (father to the great Earl of Leicester). He was slain at the battle of Toulouse, 1218.

MARGARET, married to Saër de Quiney; he was summoned to Parliament, in 1207, as Baron of Groby, and Earl of Winchester.

Saër de Quincy's son Roger (now become Earl of Winton and Leicester) married Helen, daughter of Alan, Earl of Galloway, and dying in 1264, left three daughters:—

1. ELIZABETH, married Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, in Scotland; created, in 1278, Baron Comyn, of England; by whom she had John and Alexander Comyn, successively Earls of Buchan.—(Alice, the daughter of the latter, married Henry, first Lord Beaumont.)

2. HELEN, or ELENA, married to Alan la Zouch, grandfather of the Alan la Zouch who was created, in 1297, Lord Zouch, of Ashby.

3. MARGARET, married to William de Ferrars, Earl of Ferrars and Derby; son of William Lord Ferrars, and Agnes, sister of Ranulph de Blondville, Earl of Chester, whose second son, William, inherited from his mother the possessions of the Barony of Groby, which in a few generations became vested in an only daughter, Elizabeth de Ferrars, married to Sir Edward Grey (second son of Reginald, Lord Grey de Ruthyn): through whom the Barony of Groby has descended to the present Earl of Stamford.

In the Grants of portions of Charnwood made to the different Religious Houses, hereafter to be noticed, and in the descriptions of the various Parishes, will be found *almost every name* occurring in this genealogical statement; and much that would otherwise be ambiguous or obscure to the general reader will be explained by it.

Soon after the death of Ranulph de Blondville (Nichols says, as early as 1239), the manor of Loughborough, with Beaumanor and its other members, passed to the Despensers. Nichols states, too, that "in 1278, Hugh le Despenser, created Earl of Winchester in 1322, held Charnwood Forest of the King, paying yearly a pair of gilt spurs." Burton says, the above manors only "were some time the inheritance of Hugh le Despenser the younger:" and, as William de Ferrariis, as Lord of the Manor of Groby, held, in 1279, "*partem bosci de Charnwode in quo est libera chacea*," and made grants of other parts,* it is evident that Hugh le Despenser did not possess the *whole* Forest. Further, as William de Ferrariis obtained Groby and his other possessions on Charnwood by marriage with one of the co-heiresses of Roger de Quincy, and as the Earl of Buchan and Alan la Zouch married the other two co-heiresses, and held, in right of their wives, considerable portions of the Forest, at the very time Nichols assigns the whole to le Despenser, it must be concluded that le Despenser only held, with Loughborough, &c., some privileges or office analagous to, or identified with, the Rangership; which, however, was a nugatory grant, the Forest having been disafforested in 1235.—(See page 23.)

On the attainder of the younger Despenser, in 1337, his possessions were conferred by Edward the Third on Henry, first Lord Beaumont. How these parts passed from the Beaumonts to Sir William Hastings, in the time of Edward the Fourth—to Thomas, Lord Grey, in 1527—to the Crown, by the attainder of the Duke of Suffolk—and to William Heyricke, Esq., by purchase, in 1595, will be seen under the head of Beaumanor.

GROBY and its members, extending over a very large portion of the centre of the Forest, continued in the family of the Lords Ferrars till it passed, by marriage, to the Greys: from

* See his Grant to Charley Priory, in a subsequent page.

which marriage, the present possessor, the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, lineally descends.

WHITWICK, with its members, embracing nearly all the Western part, passed, by marriage, from Comyn, Earl of Buchan, to the first Lord Beaumont: and, on the attainder of William, Viscount Beaumont, was conferred by Edward the Fourth (1465) on Sir William, afterwards Lord Hastings. On its reverting to the Crown, in 1613, James the First granted it to Sir Henry Hastings, and the manor is now in the possession of the Marquis of Hastings.

BELTON, the owner of which manor is one of the six Lords of the Forest, belonged to Grace Dieu Nunnery at the Dissolution, when it was granted to Humphrey Foster, who sold it to John Beaumont: on whose forfeiture Edward the Sixth gave it to Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, whose son Henry, in 1567, sold it to Sir Francis Beaumont, from whom it passed to the Eyres, and, by purchase, in 1793, to Edward Dawson, Esq.

If, to the parts of the Forest here accounted for, be added those granted by several of the descendants of Lupus and Greutemaisnell to the different Religious Foundations, the partition of nearly the whole of Charnwood will be explained.

GARENDON, founded by Robert Bossu in 1133, though others date its foundation in 1169, and granted to the Cistercians, was, with its site and demesnes, conferred, at the Dissolution, on Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland, from whom it came, with Sheepshed, by purchase, to Sir Ambrose Phillipps, in whose descendant it is still vested.

ULVERSCROFT AND CHARLEY PRIORIES, the former founded by Robert Bossu, the latter by Robert Blanchmains, engrossed considerable tracts of the Forest. These, too, were granted, at the Dissolution, to the Earl of Rutland, who sold them to Sir Andrew Judd, from whom they passed, by marriage or purchase, through various hands to the present possessors—Charley, to William Bosworth, Esq., and Ulverscroft, to the Rev. A. L. Emerson.

ALDERMAN'S HAW, another portion of the Forest granted to a Religious House by William de Belmeis, was conferred, at the Dissolution, on Thomas Farnham, Esq.

The fine before alluded to, as throwing further light on the history of the Forest, is here given at length.

Copy of a Fine levied between Hugh d'Albini, Earl of Arundel, and Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton, about the right of Hunting, &c., in certain parts of the Forest.—1240.

“This is the final agreement made in the King's Court, at Leicester, in Hilary Terme, in the four and twentieth year of the reign of King Henry, son of King John, before the King's Justices itinerant then and there present, between Hugh de Albiniaco, Earl of Arundel, plaintiff, and Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton, upon a complaint of the said Earl of Arundel:—That the said Earl of Winton denied him free ingress and regress into a wood called LE CHALENG, to take his estover in; and that he interrupted his hunting in the said wood; which privilege Ranulph, formerly Earl of Chester, enjoyed, as belonging to the manor of Barowe, and whereof a plea was summoned between them in the said Court, viz.:

that the Earl of Winton granted for himself and his heirs a moiety of the said wood DEL'CHALENG, towards Barrow, within the underwritten metes and bounds, viz.:—from the Heyway end to the rock of CERLEG', and from the rock of Cerleg' to Dunthorne-hull, through the middle Burchewode-ley to the Holy Cross; so that the said Earl of Arundel may take, give away, fell and use, at his pleasure, his estovers of the said Wood of Chaleng' which belongs to him, and of all his other woods to the said manor of Barewe belonging, without the interruption of the said Earl of Winton or his heirs, saving to the said Earl of Winton and his heirs liberty to hunt in that part of the WOOD OF CHALENG' belonging to the said Earl of Arundel and his heirs: and likewise in all other the woods of the said Earl belonging to the manor of Barewe, except the Park of Querendon. And that the said Earl of Arundel and his heirs shall have Forresters in the said Wood of Chaleng', and in all other woods belonging to the manor of Barewe, to keep the same; and that it shall be lawfull for them to carry bows and arrows in all the said woods, upon condition that such Forresters shall come every year, within eight days after St. Michael, to the Park Ford, at the summons of the said Earl of Winton and his heirs, or their Bayliffes of Groby, and shall take an oath faithfully to preserve the game and whatever else belongs to the Forest; and that the said Earl of Arundel and his heirs shall have nine bows in the Forest of the said Earl of Winton, viz.: five of which Ranulph, formerly Earl of Chester, had there, of the gift of Robert, Earl of Leicester, and four given by the said Earl of Winton, to kill wild beasts; six small arrows, to take such as are wounded, without dogges, as often as the said Earl and his heirs shall think fit in his own person to goe there. And that it shall be lawfull for them to go throughout, with the said bows and arrows, to the way which comes from Whytwyck to Groby; and if it happen that any beast be shott within the said bounds, and shall pass over the way towards Bardon, it shall be lawfull for them to follow with the arrows until they be taken. And for this Grant the said Earl of Arundel hath remised and quitt claimed from him and his heirs to the said Earl of Winton and his heirs, all that part of the Wood of Chaleng', towards Charley, and towards the wood of the Monks of Garendon, for ever, according to the said bounds; reserving liberty to the said Earl of Arundel and his heirs to enter into any part of the said Forest with the said nine bows and arrows, as aforesaid."

"And the said Earl of Arundel granteth, for himself and his heirs, that he will not permit any of his servants or tenants to commit any trespass in the said Forest, by destroying the game; and if any be convicted thereof, the said Earle granteth, for himself and his heirs, that he will provide a reasonable punishment for such offence, without delay, to the utmost of his power."—(*Fines Leic*, 24 Hen. III.)

In 1252, another agreement was entered into by the Earl of Winton and Roger de Somery, who, by his marriage with Nichola, second sister and co-heiress of Hugh, Earl of Arundel, was the then possessor of Barrow, to this effect:—

"Rogerus de Quincy, Comes Winton, Roberto de Tateshall, juniori, Johanni filio Alani, Radulpho fil' Rogeri de Somery, Rogero de Monte-alto et Cecil' ux.: quod teneant *finem* inter Hugonem de Albiniaco Comitem Arundel, avunculum Roberti Johannis et Radulphi

et fratrem Cecilie, de libero introitu et exitu Comitis Arundel in boscum vocat' Challenge, estover et cursum canum ibidem.

“Rogerus de Somery, tenens manerium de Barewe post mortem Nicolæ, matris Radulphi, debeat fugare in Forestâ de Groby: Comes teneat Parcum de Bradgate, clausum cum saltatoribus. Comes dat licentiam Rogero de Somery quod fugat in Forestâ suâ; capiat duas damas temp. pinguedinis et duas damas temp. firmationis: et aliæ conventiones notatu perdignæ.”—(*Placita divers' Comitum apud Hunt', 32 Hen. III.*)

Of such importance did these high and mighty Lords deem the right of hunting in Charnwood Forest, that another agreement was made by them at *Leicester*, “in the 31st year of King Henry, son of King John, before the Justices then there itinerant,” reciting the “cyrograph before made between the aforesaid Earl of Winton and Hugh de Albiniaco, Earl of Arundel.”—(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 661.*)

Respecting their original agreement on this weighty matter, the late Dr. Vernon had taken also the following memoranda from some other national records in the Talley Court of the Exchequer:—“Comes Arundel questus, quod Comes Winton impedivit eum habere liberum introitum et exitum in bosco Le Chaleng, ad capiend. estoveria, & currere cum canibus; *quam libertatem Radulfus Comes Cestrie habuit pertinentem manerio suo Barewe.*” “Comes Winton' concessit comiti Arundel medietatem bosci del Chalenge versus Barewe, cum boundariis; salvâ venatione totâ comiti Winton', &c., & omnibus aliis boscis manerii Barewe, excepto parco Quarendon.....Comes Arundel & heredes habeant forestarios, qui portent arcus, sagittas, genderes, picettas, & bozones sive sagittas: cum aliis conventionibus notatu perdignis.....Chimina de Whitwick versus Groby & versus Berdon nominantur.”

I could produce at least twenty other Deeds from the Public Records, in which this wood is spoken of as “Kalengia,” “Le Challenge,” and “the Wood of Challenge;” but from its total disappearance for several centuries, and the absence of its name from all modern documents as well as Forest maps, neither Burton nor Nichols made the least attempt to show where it was situated. I, too, should have had great difficulty in ascertaining its precise site, but for the assistance of a gentleman of such a knowledge of the Forest, and of its ancient history, as frequently to make me regret, while pursuing my researches, that he had not superseded my labours by being himself its Historian. I allude to the Rev. M. D. Babington, the Incumbent of the Oaks Chapel.

In reply to my inquiries, Mr. Babington says, “It is not so difficult as might be supposed to ascertain the locality of the long-forgotten *Wood of Challenge*, because, on comparing the line which divided it into two moieties, with the ancient boundaries of the parishes of Barrow and Sheepshed, given in Nichols, from ‘Charyte’s Rentale’ of Leicester Abbey,* and with the more modern perambulations of Sheepshed, it is obvious that the

* One of these Deeds is dated A.D. 1280. The other two have lost their dates, being imperfect: but they cannot be later than 1502, when Brother Charyte ended the task commenced by him in 1477, of copying the ancient Deeds relating to the possessions of the Abbey into the “Rentale.”—(*Nichols, Vol. I., App. p. 53.*)—They are probably much older than either of those years.

same line is intended in them all, and that (with the exception of the first quarter of a mile) it is no other than the old Forest division between those parishes.

“By placing them in juxta-position, their identity will be at once perceived.

| A. <i>Fine levied A.D. 1240.</i> (See p. 15.) | B. <i>Inquisition respecting the Boundary of Sheepshed Parish, not later than A.D. 1502. — (Nichols, Vol. III., p. 1014, column 1.)</i> | C. <i>Inquisition respecting the Boundary of Sheepshed Wood, A.D. 1280. — (Nich., A.D. 1280. — (Nich., Vol. III., p. 1014, column 2.)</i> | D. <i>Inquisition respecting the Boundary of Barrow Parish, not later than A.D. 1502. — (Nichols, Vol. III., p. 61.</i> | E. <i>Perambulations of Sheepshed Parish, from 1769 to 1809.</i> |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| The Heyway end.* The Rock of Cerleg. ‡ Dunthorne-hull. Through the Middle Burchwode Ley. The Holy Cross. | Le Hyweye. Charleston. Per medium clausi de Charley; and inde per medium antiquæ aulæ de Charley, quæ vocatur Erleshall. Rohay Well. § Conston Cros. | Via Regia. Nettilbush. Ad Charleystonam. Per medium curiæ de Charley. Le Sikes inter Birchwode et Tymberwode. Constoynes. | * Netilbushe. Charleston. Ad[h]ostium occidentale ecclesiæ de Charley. Donthorn-Dike. Le Hywey (from Whitwick to Groby.) | Top of Snell's Lane * Nettle Hill; † and thence by the Earl's Dyke to the North end of Charley Lane ‡ By Charley Hall, formerly <i>through</i> it. Dunjack Well, afterwards called Carter's Well. § Wide-meer-pool. |

* Here the turnpike-road from Loughborough to Ashby enters the Forest. The name “Heyway End” implies that, in 1240, there was no regular road to Ashby farther than this place. In the Barrow Inquisition no mention is made of this road, because at Nettle Hill the Barrow boundary turns off towards Beaumanor Park.

† From Snell's Lane to Nettle Hill, the Forest fence of the inclosures was formerly called “Holywell Dyke.” Thence to Charley Lane it is still known by the name of the Earl's Dyke, traditionally said to have been dug by an early Earl of Leicester. In many parts, particularly near Charley, it can now be scarcely traced. Near the Five Trees it is very visible.

‡ Whether there was formerly a stone set down as a boundary mark at the north end of Charley Lane, or whether the small adjacent rock in Mr. Dexter's garden be intended, it is impossible to ascertain.

§ The strong spring which rises here, and is the principal source of Blackbrook, is now merged in the dam formed by Mr. Gisborne at this spot, when he built Charley Mill. Its name, “Dunjack Well,” probably has the same origin as “Dunthorne Hull.” Possibly its other ancient appellation, “Rohay Well,” may have been derived from some Charley Monk, a member of the family of Rohaud, or Rohaut, Lords of the Manors of Worthington and Newbold, and possessors of other estates in Leicestershire in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. No list of the Monks of Charley is extant, but Henry Rohaud was a Priest in 1309.—(*Nichols, Vol. II, p. 211.*)

|| The *present* road from Whitwick to Groby does not adjoin, though within a short distance of Wide-meer-pool, well known in the Forest perambulations as the point at which the parishes of Markfield, Sheepshed, and Whitwick met. Here three crosses were renewed, at each perambulation, till the Inclosure. The name of the ancient cross, “Holy Cross,” gives it a character of greater veneration than seems to have been enjoyed by the many other crosses spoken of in old Deeds as standing in the Forest; for instance, “Sir Robert's Cross,” near Little Bawdon Castle, or that called “Aceruus Lapis, ubi quadam crux stare solebat,” near Copt Oak. Perhaps its proximity to the Abbot's Oak (little more than one hundred yards) may, on some occasion of high solemnity, have caused it to be consecrated. Its other names, “Constoynes,” and “Conston Cross,” are probably derived from its situation, at the east end of the range of rocks (between High Towers and Green Hill) called “Warren Hills,” denoting the Cross near the Coney Stones.

“ In the present state of the Forest, the line may be thus described :—Commencing at Snell’s Lane, on the Loughborough and Ashby turnpike-road, it skirts Holy-well inclosures, whence it runs in a hollow way called the Earl’s Dyke, over Five Tree Hill to the north end of Charley Lane, along which it proceeds some short distance, and passes by Charley Hall to Charley Mill. It then strikes off at nearly right angles to Wide-mere-pool, in Mr. William Thurlby’s homestead, at the back of the Green Hill public-house, where it terminates.

“ A person at all conversant with the disputes consequent on the Charnwood Forest Inclosure Act, cannot but observe, on looking at the table just given, that (with the exception of the first quarter of a mile) the parochiality of the land along this line, generally on both sides, but always on one, was not till then decided.

“ For instance, Charley proved to be extra-parochial, though the western side of it had always been perambulated by Sheepshed, and the Lordship had, from the time of the Conquest, been held by the three first Norman Earls of Chester, as an appendage of Barrow ; and was, in the middle of the thirteenth century, described in a Grant as part of ‘ the Waste of Barrow,’ meaning the part of the Forest in that lordship.*

“ Again, a plot called one hundred acres, but really much larger, on the west of Charley, proved to be in the liberty of Newtown Linford, though it had been demised as part of the parish of Sheepshed in the middle of the thirteenth century, by William de Ferrars, to the Lady Helen la Zouch, and was held by his grandson, Henry de Ferrars, in 1325, as in Sheepshed parish, yet parcel of the manor of Groby.†

“ The remainder of the large tract between Charley and the Hermitage, near the Reservoir, bounded by Blackbrook on the north and by Green Hill on the south, was decided to be in Whitwick, though at the time of the Inquisitions before recited, it was found to be in Sheepshed, and had been (together with the one hundred acres just mentioned) always included in the perambulations of that parish. So also, on the south of Charley, the land between that place and the turnpike-road from Markfield to Whitwick, was then found to be in Markfield parish, though the old Inquisitions place it in Barrow. A somewhat similar uncertainty prevailed respecting a long slip of land on the eastern side of the Earl’s Dyke, till the land was allotted by the Commissioners of Inclosure, when it appeared that though it was in the liberty of Beaumanor, it lay under the burden of paying poors’-rates to Woodhouse.

“ Unfortunately no ancient Deed has been preserved, which shows what parts of the Wood of Challenge, to the south of the road from Whitwick to Groby, were claimed in ancient times by different Lords or Parishes ; but it is pretty clear that such disputes had arisen, from the fact that a considerable portion of it is now in the liberty of Newtown Linford, though distant some miles from that place, and surrounded by other parishes.

“ Connecting these circumstances with the name of the wood in question, we may very fairly conjecture that it was called the Wood of Challenge from still more ancient disputes

* *Domesday Book, Vol. I., p. 237. Nichols, Vol. III., p. 120, 121, 129, and 1011.*—The whole Forest is spoken of by Leland as “ The Forest of Charley, commonly called the Waste.”

† *Inquis. ad quod damnum, p. 253.*

as to the proprietors or parishes to which it belonged, the old legal term on such occasions being 'challenged.'*

"But, though the situation of the Wood of Challenge can be ascertained, its limits cannot be exactly defined. Besides the tracts already mentioned, it may have included other considerable parts of the Forest, and perhaps of the adjacent country. At all events, it may be safely asserted, that it contained, *inter alia*, the narrow slip of Beaumanor liberty on the east side of the Earl's Dyke; † that it widened considerably on reaching Charley (of which a small part only was insulated by it); ‡ that it embraced the large tract already described on the western side of Charley, as far as the Reservoir; while to the south of Charley Hall it included Charley Wood, together with Timberwood and Birchwood Hills; and to the east of Bardon a territory, the extent of which cannot be ascertained, on the south of the road from Groby to Whitwick. I am inclined to think that this was considerable; for it cannot be supposed that the part reserved for his own exclusive use by the Earl of Winton, the superior Lord of the Wood, was smaller than the part in which he *allowed* the Earl of Arundel the privilege of hunting."

Such is Mr. Babington's answer. He has not only clearly pointed out the situation of this wood, but has, perhaps, satisfactorily accounted for its name, from the frequent disputes respecting it: though another antiquarian and eminent scholar is of opinion that Challenge, or Challenge (as it is found in some old documents), is evidently of kindred signification with Stone-henge, and he deduces from the word strong grounds for belief that a Druidical Temple stood somewhere near the spot now called Stony Stumps, and that the wood was a grove belonging to it, or leading to it.

My readers will thank me for adding a passage of great interest from Sir Oswald Mosley's "History of Tutbury." It shows that a wood in Needwood Forest derived its name from a cause somewhat similar to that which Mr. Babington assigns as the origin of the name of the "Wood of Challenge."

"Thurstan, Archbishop of York [at the Battle of the Standard, 1107], had recourse to a new mode of encouraging the forces under the command of these nobles [Peverel and Ferrars]: he caused a famous standard to be erected, bearing banners dedicated to St. Peter, St. John, and St. Wilfrid, with a portion of the consecrated host thereon: and his deputy, the Bishop of Durham, addressed the army from beneath it. Robert de Ferrars adopted another plan of animating the troops he had brought with him out of Derbyshire [another passage adds "and Leicestershire"], and from his other estates around his Castle.

"He promised a grant of land on the most frequented side of his forest of Needwood, to that man who should perform the greatest feats of valour. These methods had the desired effect; the hostile armies met in conflict near North Allerton, and, after an obstinate resist-

* The Abbot of Leicester *challenged* Alderman's Haw as his, from the Prior of Bermondsey.—(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 168.*)

† This is called in the Fine "The part towards the wood of the Monks of Garendon," to whom it was granted by Thomas Dispensator.—(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 811.*)

‡ In a Grant to the Monks of Charley, for the purpose of enlarging the court-yard of their Priory, the ditch of the Wood of Challenge is described as adjoining the south wall of their Priory, where the manors of Barrow and Sheepshed met.—(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 121, compared with Vol. III., p. 61, column 2.*)

ance, the Scotch forces were defeated with great loss. The Derbyshire men were conspicuous for their bravery during the battle; and upon their return from the campaign, the promised land was claimed by one Ralph, to whom and his heirs the grant of it was confirmed under the name of *Boscum Calumpniatum*—*Callingwood*, or the *Claimed Wood*.*

This long explanation of points that have often been the subject of much doubt, will at least be interesting to proprietors of the Forest: and the general reader, it is hoped, will find in it some information that will amply repay the perusal.

Having now given a view of what may be called the quadripartite division of the Forest, viz.: into Barrow, Groby, Whitwick, and Sheepshed, I proceed to notice some subsequent subdivisions of these portions, for which I am chiefly indebted to Nichols' History.

After the death of Sir William de Ferraris, in 1288, it was found that he held the wood (*boscum*) of Charnwood, and that William de Ferrars, his son, was then aged seventeen.†

About this period, Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, obtained a Grant of a market and fair at Whitwick, and held lands in Charnwood.‡ How he obtained possessions in the Forest has already been pointed out. Many curious particulars of this remarkable Scotch family will be found in a subsequent chapter.

In 1306, John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, son of Alexander Comyn and Elizabeth de Quincy, gave to the Nuns of Grace Dieu one hundred acres of waste appertaining to Whytwyk and Shepshed.§

In 1349, Alice de Beaumont, Constabulatrix of Scotland, widow of Henry Lord Beaumont, daughter of the second Alexander Comyn, and niece of John, confirmed to the Monks of Garendon, for the health of her soul and that of her husband, and of John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, her uncle, "*Totum boscum et solum cujusdam bosci, cum situ, chaceâ et venatione et alias res et possessiones in villâ et campis de Shepeshevede et de Garendon et in Forestâ nostrâ de Charnewode.*"

In 1422, Maud, widow of Sir John Lovell, Knt., died seised of a third part of a certain Chase called Charnwood, parcel of the manor of Sheepshed; and in 1451, Sir William Lovell died seised of the same, and also of several Knights' fees, held of the King, as of the Honour of Leicester, by fealty only.|| These possessions devolved on the Lovells by the marriage of John Lord Lovell with Joan Beaumont.

In 1540, John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, held portions of the Forest; and the Receiver of Grace Dieu Priory charges himself with payment to the said Earl for common of pasture in Charnwood for the tenants of Belton.¶

The de Veres appear to have obtained possessions on the Forest by the marriage of Hawise, daughter of Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton, to Hugh de Vere, Earl of Oxford,** or by the marriage of Elizabeth, widow of William Lord Beaumont, to this John de Vere.

* Sir Oswald Mosley kindly informs me that he derived this interesting fact from Records in the Duchy of Lancaster Office, and that the Norman French name of the wood was *Bors-challenge*.

† Esch. 16 Edward I. ‡ Esch. 16 Edward I. § Esch. 34 Edward I. || Esch. 1 Henry VI. ¶ Esch. 31 Henry VIII.

** The aunt of this Hawise de Quincy, also named Hawise, has been more ill-used by antiquarians, even of great name, than any lady who has come under their notice. In the pedigree of the Norman Earls of Leicester (*Nichols, Vol. I., p. 18*) she is altogether passed over in silence, while her three sisters and their alliances are duly enumerated; and though mentioned in the de Quincy pedigree (*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 66*), she is at one time called the wife, and in

In 1583, Thomas Pasquen held parts of the Forest by Crown lease.

Queen Elizabeth also leased lands in Charnwood to William Acton and others, at a yearly rent of 11s. 8d.; and Sir George Hastings, in 1587, held certain woods in the Forest, as parcel of the manor of Beaumore, under a lease from the Crown, at a yearly rent of 30s.*

"Sir Henry Hastings, of Humberstone (who was knighted by King James, at Belvoir, April 23, 1603), obtained from that King, for £4,000., the manor of Whitwick, with the lands thereto belonging, formerly the property of the Duke of Suffolk, attainted, together with Bardon Park, and all the messuages, lands, &c., on Charnwood Forest belonging to the manor of Whitwick."†

In 1604-5, Henry, the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, obtained from James the First a Royal Grant, under the Duchy seal, of the office of *Chief Forester of Leicester Forest*, with a fee of 2*d.* per diem, and also the office of keeping the ward called the Thwayt, fee 30s. 4*d.* per annum. He had also the office of Keeper of Heathly Ward (there is no spot in either Forest now so called), in the same Forest, fee 1½*d.* per diem, with agistment for twelve kine, one bull, and sixteen loads of wood yearly, on the same Ward. Also the office of Keeper of Burned Lodge (within the said Forest), with agistment for twelve kine, one bull, two horses, and sixteen loads of wood yearly. The Earl's own valuation of these privileges was:—

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|
| Fees yearly, in money | £9 | 2 | 5 |
| Cattle to be kept yearly (thirty-four) | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| The wood, yearly, being thirty-two loads | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| | ————— | | |
| | £76 | 2 | 5 |

Besides this, the Earl had the killing of eighty bucks and forty does yearly, and the fishing of his Majesty's ponds; the pleasure and command of taking pheasants and partridges; the oversight and command of the wood, where no lord could fell any without license.‡

Some circumstances concur to render it somewhat probable, that the Forest here called "Leicester Forest" was, in fact, that of Charnwood, viz.:—Burton's assertion that there was, in reality, "no other Forest in Leicestershire"—"the Thwayt" being undoubtedly situated in Charnwood (see under Garendon)—the contiguity of the latter to Ashby-de-la-Zouch—and lastly, because the Earl's immediate predecessor was "Chief Forester of Leicestershire."§

the next line the daughter-in-law of Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton. This seems to have originated in her being known by two names, Hawise daughter of Hugh, and Hawise sister of Ranulph, successively Earls of Chester. In another place (*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 128*) she is married to Roger de Quincy, having been before called the wife of his brother Robert. Lastly, the compiler of the index to the first volume of Nichols, considers her the sister-in-law of Ranulph de Blondville. There is a Deed extant which settles the point, and demonstrates that she was the wife of Robert, son of Saër, Earl of Winton (*Nichols, Vol. I., App. p. 40, No. 23*); and another Deed (*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 120*) shows that Robert was the *eldest* son of Saër and Margaret, and that he was married during his father's life. Hence I have differed (page 13) from the pedigree, &c., in Nichols, taken, I believe, from Dugdale and Burton.—Part of the difficulty may have arisen from Robert not succeeding his father Saër in his title and estates, which is accounted for by his having been absent in Palestine at his father's death.

* In 1609, Thomas Hood held *in capite* the lands called Shifferman Hills.

† Harleian Manuscript, 3881.—Mr. Curtis states (p. 9 of his Topographical History of the County of Leicester) that this grant was made to Sir Henry Hastings and Henry Cutler in 1569, which is evidently wrong. See pages 154 and 160 of this work, in the letter of which this error is unfortunately repeated.

‡ Carte's Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, F.F.F., No. 3.

§ William Lord Hastings is also stated, in an Inquisit. post portem, 1467, to have had "officium Capitalis Forestarum et Chaceæ Leic'."—(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 141.*)

But Burton goes on to say, "Charnwood never (since the deafforestation thereof) hath had any game or gard." that is, Ranger, &c., appointed by the Crown. Again, the name "Thwayt," a piece of ground recovered by cultivation from wood-land, may be expected near *every* Forest. Thirdly, the Earls of Huntingdon resided not only at Ashby, but also at Kirby Muxloe, in *Leicester Forest*. Lastly, the Parks included in the Deed by which Sir William Hastings was, in 1461, appointed Chief Ranger of Leicester Forest, viz.: Leicester-Frith, Barrow Park,* and Tooley Park, all on the verge of *Leicester Forest*, show that Charnwood was *not* then intended. Grants in nearly the same words were made to the Hastings family in 1466 and 1507. And the more high sounding title of "Chief Forester of *Leicestershire*," in 1604, meant nothing more; for the Grant goes on to call him "Steward and Receiver of the Honour of Leicester," of which the Forest, or more properly the Chase, of Leicester was a part. Nor indeed had James I. the power to appoint a Forester for Charnwood. Since its disafforestation, in 1235, the only occasion on which a Sovereign ventured to invade the rights of the Lords of Manors, was in 1278, by Edward I., who granted the Forest (see p. 14) to Hugh le Despenser, in whose favour he frequently violated all the recognised privileges of his nobles. That Grant, indeed, was nugatory; for William de Ferraris was at the very time in possession of a large part of the Forest, and continued to hold it to the day of his death, in 1288.

The last Swanimote Court, as has been already shown, was held in the middle of the 17th century. From that time the Forest seems to have gradually declined in importance. The little timber it still contained, and its well-stocked rabbit warrens, were the chief things that gave it value. Even the right of common had become a very precarious and questionable advantage. It has, indeed, been stated by Mr. Bakewell, a great authority on agricultural subjects, that this right was actually a dead loss to those persons who availed themselves of it.

Having given this cursory view of the chief Forest possessions of the wealthy, it seems right, in this territorial description, not to forget what the poor man considered *his* territory.

The small commoners and cottagers of the various townships around enjoyed the privileges which the free Forest afforded. They had their fern harvests, at which the fern was gathered and burnt to make ash-balls—they had their little pickings of gorse, brush-wood, fire-wood, turf, and peat—they had the minor "waifs and strays" of the warren—more than all, they had "fleet foot on the Correi." Some had a few stunted cows and Forest sheep—a horse, it may be, or a few asses, which carried coals or besoms to the surrounding towns. Regarding the Forest as their inalienable right, they greatly resented the encroachments that seemed to be extending wider and wider, from the increased vigilance with which the warreners found it necessary to guard the lands in the neighbourhood of the warrens. A spirit of dissatisfaction at these inroads into what they called their "Maker's manor" (I have the expression from a very old forester), first began to develop itself among the cottagers of Sheepshed and Whitwick. The Jack Cades and Wat Tylers of the district fanned the sparks of this dissatisfaction into a flame, which soon reached the colliers at Cole-Orton. The outbreak that shortly after arose, is thus noticed by Nichols:—"After the Forest had been well cleared of wood," as described in the preceding chapter, "it abounded for a considerable time in rabbits, there being then at least five well-stocked warrens: Lord Stamford's, Lord Huntingdon's, Mr. Her-

* This is misprinted Barrow in Nichols, Vol. III., p. 120: and, after him, in the Beauties of England

rick's, Mr. Phillipps', and Mr. Bosville's; besides three smaller ones—Mr. Barber's, of Maplewell, and two others. In January, 1748-9, however, the inhabitants of all the neighbouring villages assembled at Charley Knoll, and after a formal consultation began to pull down fences, where encroachments had been made upon the Forest, at Woodhouse Eaves, Newtown Linford, and other places. Afterwards the rabble of the country, principally colliers from Cole-Orton, proceeded to dig up and destroy the rabbits, which occasioned great disturbance. Persevering in their resolution, the persons who claimed the right of protecting what they called their property, raised help, and went to such lengths that it was found necessary to guard themselves with fire-arms. William Whittle, a warrener, and four or five of his assistants, were attacked by the rabble on the Warren Hill. These defending themselves, a scuffle ensued with pitchforks, spades, pickaxes, &c., the warrener being the only person having a gun. In this affray William Stevenson, one of the rioters, received a wound in his forehead, of which he died in a few hours. It was the opinion of Mr. Hunt, the surgeon who dressed the wound, that it was not gun-shot (though such a rumour had gained ground from the firing of a gun in the air), but occasioned by a pitchfork grain having entered his head. It was never known who killed him. Whittle and five or six others were indicted for the murder at the Lent Assizes, at Leicester, in 1749, but no positive evidence appearing to convict any of them, and Mr. Herrick's Grant of free warren being produced in Court, they were of course acquitted. Yet the resolution of destroying continued, although there came two troops of dragoons, who took great numbers of the rioters prisoners, so that the gaols at Leicester were filled with them; and after much controversy, the Forest was proved to be free common for twenty-six neighbouring towns and villages; and thus the matter rested. But there is now scarcely a rabbit to be seen except in Bradgate Park." When the tumults had entirely subsided, the following respectful memorial was drawn up by a considerable number of the inhabitants of the neighbouring townships, and signed respectively by the officiating Clergyman of each place:—

“TO WILLIAM HERRICK, ESQ., OF BEAUMANOR.

“We, the freeholders, farmers, and commoners of the several towns hereto annexed, having a right of common upon a large common called Charnwood, alias Charley Forest, desire, in behalf of ourselves and great numbers of commoners, in the first place, to express our concern and abhorrence of the manner of the late proceedings on the said commons; and, in the second place, we desire to represent the great oppressions we and all the commoners have lain under, for several years past, by the enlarging and extending the supposed ancient bounds of the warrens which have been kept upon the said commons, by which the grass and herbage of the said commons has been spoiled, and rendered unfit for depasturing of cattle and sheep; and many poor tenants and commoners have and do suffer grievously by the said supposed bounds being so enlarged, and by the warreners disturbing and driving their sheep and cattle off, or when near the said warrens. It is therefore our request that you will take the said condition of the commoners into consideration. And, agreeable to your goodness in proposing to reform all grievances, we desire that a jury of the most ancient persons nearest to those commons may be convened, and by their verdict such mere-dykes or stones may be fixed as may prevent any future disputes; and hope you in consequence

can receive no damage, as your tenants, together with the rest of the commoners, will likewise find their account and benefit by it, and be thereby enabled to pay their rents. And we farther desire to recommend to your mercy those commoners that have incurred your displeasure, by defacing the said commons; it being their first offence of this nature, to which many were betrayed either by rumours without foundation, or led by curiosity, or irritated by others' murmurs, or excited by sensibly experiencing themselves the decay of their own commons. All which is hereby submitted."

This very temperate representation and remonstrance was signed by the Ministers of twenty-two out of the twenty-six townships, viz. :—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Swithland. | Cropston. | Barrow. | Newtown Lin- | Thringstone. | Woodthorpe. |
| Rothley. | Anstey. | Quorndon. | ford. | Belton. | Mapplewell. |
| Mountsorrel. | Markfield. | Woodhouse. | Hugglescote. | Sheepshd. | Stanton-under- |
| Thurcaston. | Loughborough. | Ratby. | Whitwick. | Hathern. | Bardon. |

What were the immediate results from this very proper address, Nichols does not inform us; nor does he state why it was solely addressed to Mr. Herrick, and not also to the other owners of warrens. The reason may have been, that Mr. Herrick's warrener was the person who resisted the rioters. The document, signed as it was, carries on the face of it the general conviction that encroachments had been made on the commoners' rights, and the circumstance probably had some weight in directing people's thoughts to inclosure.

The circumference of the Forest, according to Wild's survey (taken in 1754), appears to be thirty-three miles: but he has taken the boundaries in an angular form, or indeed in any form they presented; perhaps it might be encircled in a fence of twenty-five miles.—Leland says it was "XX miles in cumpace."

To the proprietors of Forest property, at least to those who have not access to Nichols, it may not be uninteresting to describe the boundaries of this perambulation.

THE PERAMBULATION ROUND CHARNWOOD FOREST.

BEGINNING AT THE FOREST LANE, NEXT BEAUMANOR PARK.

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| WOODHOUSE, BARROW, QUORNDON, WOODTHORPE, | | M. P. F. |
| Round Woodhouse Eaves and Hungerhill Wood, in Swithland Field..... | 1 | 6 25 |
| SWITHLAND, MOUNTSORREL, ROTHLEY, | | |
| To N. E. corner of Swithland Woods | 1 | 1 39 |
| NEWTOWN, THURCASTON, ANSTAY, GROBY, GLENFIELD, RATBY, | | |
| To Cropston Gate..... | 1 | 6 24 |
| Round Bradgate Park | 2 | 0 2 |
| Round Blake Hayes and Stony Wells, N. W. | 3 | 4 48 |
| To the Toll-House | 1 | 5 37 |
| | 9 | 1 31 |

| MARKFIELD. | |
|--|----------|
| | M. F. P. |
| From Toll-House on road to Leicester..... | 0 1 24 |
| To the corner of Markfield Intakes, near the Toll-House..... | 0 1 25 |
| Round Markfield Knoll | 1 1 28 |
| To bottom of Wash-pit lane | 0 3 5 |
| To corner of ditto lane, under Cliff Hill | 0 2 16 |
| To top of Stony-lane | 0 3 20 |
| To Broad-lane | 0 1 20 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2 5 34 |

| STANTON, THORNTON, BAGWORTH, | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| To Stanton-street | 1 4 8 |
| To Battleflat-lane..... | 1 2 14 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2 6 22 |

| HUGGLESCOTE, IBSTOCK, DONINGTON, | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| To Beggary-lane | 0 3 31 |

| BARDON PARK, | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| To the corner of Copt Oak..... | 1 7 20 |
| To Judy's-lane | 1 6 4 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 3 5 24 |

| WHITWICK, COLE-ORTON, SWANNINGTON, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, RAUNSTON, | |
|---|--------|
| To Judy's corner | 0 2 28 |
| To Whitwick-street..... | 2 0 0 |
| To the Dumps | 0 4 25 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2 7 13 |

| THRINKSTON, | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| To Thacker's-lane | 0 2 25 |

| GRACE DIEU, OSGATHORPE, | |
|--|--------|
| To N. W. corner of Grace Dieu Park | 0 6 3 |
| To lane leading to Osgathorpe | 0 2 35 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1 0 38 |

| BELTON, DISEWORTH, LONG WHATTON, LANGLEY, | |
|---|--------|
| To N. W. corner of Belton Low Wood | 0 4 27 |
| To the Fish-pool | 1 2 18 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1 7 5 |

| SHEPESHED, HATHERN, | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| To Gelder's Hall | 1 7 21 |
| To Shepeshed Nook | 1 5 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 3 4 21 |

| GARENDON PARK, | | M. P. F. |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Round the same | | 1 4 27 |
| KNIGHT-THORPE, BURLEIGH, | | |
| To S. W. corner of Thorpe-Brand | | 0 3 30 |
| To Loughborough-lane | | 0 5 33 |
| | | <hr/> 1 1 23 <hr/> |
| LOUGHBOROUGH, | | |
| To Beaumanor Park | | 1 5 20 |
| BEAUMANOR PARK, | | |
| Round the same | | 0 7 5 |
| | | <hr/> 2 4 25 <hr/> |

The number of ancient entrances into the Forest, still known by the names of Forest Gates, will show not only that its boundaries were formerly well known, but that it was inclosed by some kind of wall or fence.* These entrances were—Forest Gate, near Loughborough; Pocket Gate; Forest Gate, near Woodhouse Brand; The Hall Gates; Horsepool Lane Gate; Meadow Lane Gate; Belton Low Wood Gate; Tickow Lane Gate; Sheepshed Forest Gate; Snell's Lane Gate, &c.

THE FOREST CANAL.

Some statement respecting the Charnwood Forest Canal will not be out of place here. In 1791, a Company, called the *Leicester Canal Company*, obtained an Act "for making and maintaining a navigable communication between the Loughborough Canal and the Town of Leicester; and a communication, by railways or stone roads and water-levels, from several places and mines to the said Loughborough Canal." By virtue of this Act, a railway was formed from the canal at Loughborough to the Forest end of the Loughborough lane, whence a canal was cut, nine miles in length, to Thringstone Bridge, with a branch towards Barrow Hill lime-works. From Thringstone Bridge, railways again branched off to the coal-pits at Swannington and Cole-Orton. The object was, to convey coals from the Swannington and Cole-Orton collieries, and lime from Barrow Hill and Cloud Hill, near Breedon. The water of this canal was supplied by the natural drainage of the Forest running into Blackbrook, and collected and raised by a reservoir of thirty-five acres, formed near the Hermitage under Sharpley.

The failure of this speculation, by which the Company sank nearly £100,000., has very often been ascribed to the bursting of this reservoir—to the want of water—and to the porous nature of some parts of the soil in which the bed of the canal lies. This is an error. It is true that, in 1807, the reservoir did burst, and caused considerable devastation and

* Forests, according to Sir Henry Spelman, were not necessarily bounded by a fence—"nullo sepimento, at certis terminis."

consternation too: carrying away, as it did, every thing that impeded its course, and making a noise like a second Niagara. Only one boat load of coals is said to have been brought to Loughborough by this canal; but the true cause of its failure was the nature of the line, which has been thought to have been so formed purposely, in order to favour the Derbyshire collieries. It involved the expense of unloading and re-loading the coal twice before it left the Forest, and a third time before it could pass along the Leicester Canal, on reaching Loughborough. The Swannington Colliery had, for some time, been a source of little profit, and a dispute respecting the drainage of their pits had arisen between the late Sir George Beaumont and Mr. Boulton, owners of different coal fields near Cole-Orton. Both fields were consequently closed, when the extraordinary expenses of getting to market prevented their proprietors from entering into competition with those of Derbyshire: whose coals, once lodged in boats, were delivered at and beyond Leicester without either the breakage or expense of frequent re-loading. The Forest Canal was, in consequence, no longer used, and is now a dry and unsightly cutting.

The Commissioners for the Inclosure were empowered to assess the value of the land taken by the Company from the Forest. The Company therefore became the actual owners of the soil; and as they have no power to sell it, it is let to the different proprietors through whose lands the line runs.

It detracts much from the beauty and value of the several estates through which it passes—and, without a fresh Act of Parliament, it must ever continue to do so—as all inducements to obliterate and improve it are necessarily wanting.

Having now carried the reader, though somewhat discursively, through the Territorial description of the Forest, in which both the rights of the rich and poor have been glanced at, I proceed to another portion of its history, to which the foregoing statements naturally point, viz.:—THE INCLOSURE.

CHAPTER IV.

THE INCLOSURE OF THE FOREST.

THE preceding chapter will, perhaps, have rendered the reader anxious to arrive at the termination of what he may be disposed to term "the dry details" of the book. Unfortunately for an author, and sometimes for his readers too, he is not always at liberty, at least in any historical work, to select his subjects. Most Historians have felt the difficulty of avoiding tediousness, and at the same time doing justice to their materials.* It is not, however, the less incumbent on a writer to present all "the dry details" necessary to a clear view of his subject, merely because he knows they must be unpalatable to the majority. To describe Charnwood without some account of the Inclosure, would be to omit one of the most important circumstances in its history. Another chapter, of a character somewhat similar to those preceding it, is therefore unavoidable, however uninteresting it may be.

It was in 1794 that Mr. Monk, in his Agricultural Report for Leicestershire, stated that "Charnwood Forest contains about 15,000, or 16,000 acres,† three-fourths of which might be made into very useful land: and if inclosed, would make some valuable farms. The most improvable part is towards Loughborough, where there is a large tract of very excellent land, worth a pound per acre. It is the opinion of those who are well acquainted with every part of it, that there is not a single acre which is not capable of improvement. If the hills were planted, and the other parts inclosed, it would be a wonderful ornament to the county."

It is probable that this Report had considerable weight in confirming the then wavering opinions of the proprietors with regard to the advantages of inclosure. The late Lord Hastings, indeed, had long been favourable to the step, and it has been said that it was greatly owing to his Lordship's influence, and the high opinion entertained of the soundness of his judgment, that the great change was eventually accomplished.

The prejudices against inclosure were undoubtedly great. The loss of extensive sheep-walks had its influence with some large proprietors, whose old inclosed lands were on or near the Forest. There were, besides, proprietors of small inclosed patches, of only a few acres (as, for instance, that called "The Oaks"), who absolutely ran upwards of two thousand

* Livy says, "*Legentium plerisque, haud dubito quin primæ originis proximaque originibus, minus præbituræ voluptatis sint, festinantibus ad hæc nova,*" &c.

† Other authorities estimated it at 18,000, and 20,000 acres: but including, perhaps, the old inclosures.

sleep upon the Forest. These, and the small commoners, naturally regarded the contemplated change as spoliation. It was alleged, too, that "the old inclosures, such as Charley, the Holy Rood Land,* &c., formed no criterion for judging of the general capabilities of the Forest. They were mostly in low and sheltered situations." However, notwithstanding these doubts of the advantage or the justice of the measure, the Act of Inclosure obtained the Royal Assent in 1808, and the account of claims was signed in 1812. "That Act," it has been said, "increased the value of some land thirty, some sixty, some a hundred fold."

The Commissioners named in the Act were Robert Harvey Wyatt, of Barton-under-Needwood, John Burcham, of Coningsby, Thomas Eagle, of Allesley, and James Green, of Lenton, Gentlemen: and while, I believe, almost all the parties whose rights were affected by their decisions, allowed that they executed their very onerous duties with fairness and fidelity, it must not be concealed that a considerable degree of dissatisfaction prevailed at the unparalleled expenditure which the Commission caused. A leaning in favour of the larger proprietors has also been imputed to the Commissioners. So far as I can learn, this "leaning" consisted chiefly in their endeavours to accommodate the Lords of the Forest, by fixing their allotments as near as might be to their respective Parks, Parishes, &c., and this the Act itself provided for. Many claimants were disappointed at the rejection of their claims "because no stocking had been proved," or because the messuages, &c., for which they claimed "had not been built forty years:" but whatever the claimants' original rights might have been, it is clear, at least in cases of "no stocking," that they themselves had considered them valueless—and the Commissioners were guided in their limitation to forty years by the General Inclosure Act.—(41 George III.)

The reader may satisfy himself on the subject of the partiality or impartiality of the Commissioners, by referring to their published List of Claims (to which are appended the reasons for rejection). He will at once see that, in some Parishes, as in Kegworth, for instance, which claimed by Prescription, every claim was objected to: and that in others, the claims of most influential proprietors were disallowed, while those possessed of no influence whatever were admitted.

The Act declared that "the soil of the Forest, with other rights in and over the same, was vested or reputed to be vested in the Lords of the several Manors, Lordships, Precincts, or Territories—Groby, Barrow, Whitwick, Loughborough, Beaumanor, Sheepshed, Knight-Thorpe, Thorp Acre, Garendon, Grace Dieu, Belton, Ulverscroft, Charley, Bardon, and Thringston, together with the Honourable Augustus Richard Butler Danvers, Peter Crompton, Esq., and some other persons claiming to be entitled to the soil of small portions thereof."

The grounds on which Parishes or individuals founded their claims were Prescription—Vicinage—having a parochial or manorial boundary on the Forest—being members of a parish that had a boundary, &c., &c.

Manors and Parishes were only in some cases *co-extensive*.

* Inclosed by common consent, in 1688.—Nichols owns that it derived its name from having been, before its inclosure, thrown open at Holy Rood-day (Vol. III., p. 111): but he inconsiderately places it (Vol. III., p. 128) at the Holy Cross, which has been before demonstrated to have been near the Abbot's Oak and Holly [qu. Holy] Rock. See the last note on Table, page 18.

The MANORS allowed to have a Boundary were—

| | |
|---|--|
| Barrow-upon-Sour | Loughborough |
| Bolton—co-extensive with Parish | Marfield—co-extensive with Parish |
| Beaumont—co-extensive with T. Wharfedale | Mappleton |
| Charley—co-extensive with Parish | Swinston—co-extensive with Parish |
| Graby | Stanton-under-Barston—co-extensive with Parish |
| Huggleson, and Dunnington-on-the-Heath— co-extensive with Parish | Sheepshead |
| | Thorpwood—co-extensive with Parish |

The PARISHES having Boundaries were—

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Beaumont | Newtown Underford |
| Beaumont | Swinston |
| Charley | Stanton-under-Barston |
| Huggleson, and Dunnington-on-the-Heath | Sheepshead |
| Knights-Thryke | Thorpwood |
| Loughborough | Wharfedale |
| Marfield | Woodhouse |

Parishes that were allowed Right of Common, as being Members of Manors having Boundaries on the Forest:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Anstey—Member of the Manor of Graby | Musson, North—Member of the Manor of Barrow-upon-Sour |
| Bradgate—Member of the Manor of Graby | Quinton—Member of the Manor of Barrow-upon-Sour |
| Cropton—Member of the Manor of Graby | Easton—Member of the Manor of Sheepshead |
| Dorsford—Member of the Manor of Graby | Long Wharfedale—Member of the Manor of Sheepshead |
| Graby—Member of the Manor of Graby | Swannington—Member of the Manor of Wharfedale |
| Glendfield—Member of the Manor of Graby | Wetherby—Member of the Manor of Beaumont and Parish of Loughborough |
| Newtown Underford, and Broughston—Member of the Manor of Graby; also Member of Wharfedale Manor | Grice Farm—As being in the Parish of Bolton |
| Ratby—Member of the Manor of Graby; also Member of Wharfedale Manor | |
| Barrow-upon-Sour—Member of the Manor of Barrow-upon-Sour | |

Parishes allowed Right of Common by Prescription:—

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Barston | Garsden | Mountford | Rothley | Tilly Ash |
| Bagworth | Throck | Sutton | Thorncliffe | Wetherby |
| Breidden | | Osgithorpe | Thornthorpe | Newby |

The quantity of land claimed, allowed, and objected to, in the cases of the six Lords of the Forest, is here given, in order to give the reader some idea of the extent of claims, and the general mode in which they were adjusted. The claims of Mr. Butler Danvers, as one of the largest claimants, are also stated.

THE EARL OF STAMFORD'S CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----|----|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Anstey (as being within Manor of Groby) | 263 | 1 | 35 | | | |
| Bradgate (ditto) | 1865 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Breedon (by Prescription)..... | 58 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Cropston (within Groby Manor) | 56 | 0 | 32 | | | |
| Glenfield (ditto) | 39 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Groby (ditto) | 2078 | 3 | 26 | | | |
| Newtown (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary on the Forest) 1374 | 1 | 23 | | | | |
| Ratby (as being within the Manors of Groby and Whitwick)..... | 803 | 3 | 25 | | | |
| Swithland (ditto) | 34 | 1 | 6 | | | |
| Stanton (ditto) | 78 | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Thurcaston (by Prescription) | 19 | 2 | 10 | | | |
| | <u>6761</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>6</u> | | | |

For Anstey and Thurcaston, Lord Stamford claimed also on Rothley Plain.

In this statement, it will be seen that not a single claim for land was objected to by the Commissioners; but their objections to Lord Stamford's claims for messuages and sites were very numerous.

THE EARL OF MOIRA'S CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Barrow (as being within the Manor of Barrow) | 6 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loughborough (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary, &c.) ... | 1084 | 1 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mountsorrel (as being within the Manor of Barrow) | 1 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Woodthorpe (as within the Manor of Beanmanor & Parish of Loughboro'.) | 23 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Woodhouse (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary on, &c.) ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | *18 | 1 | 20 |
| Whitwick (ditto) | 32 | 2 | 12 | † 9 | 3 | 21 |
| Swannington (as being within Whitwick) | 0 | 0 | 0 | ‡40 | 0 | 0 |
| Markfield (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary on, &c.) ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | § 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Rothley (by Prescription)..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| Quorn (as part of Barrow) | 8 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| Hathern (as part of Sheepshed) | 21 | 1 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newtown Unthank (as being within Groby and Whitwick Manors).... | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hugglescote (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary on Forest, &c.) | 15 | 1 | 24 | 11 | 0 | 26 |
| Stanton (ditto) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 26 |
| | <u>1213</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>96</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>8</u> |

In Barrow, Lord Moira put in forty-five claims for messuages, with ten perches to each; every one of which was objected to, either "because the premises were built on the Waste" or had "not been built forty years."

* † Because no Stocking was proved.

‡ Because the Premises were on the Waste, and claimed by Trustees of Wigston's Hospital.

§ Because on the Waste.

MR. MARCH PHILLIPPS' CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Garendon (by Prescription) | 1774 | 2 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grace Dieu (as part of Belton) | 465 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Knight-Thorpe (as having Parochial Boundary) | 51 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loughborough (ditto) | 217 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kegworth (by Prescription) | 0 | 0 | 0 | *185 | 1 | 0 |
| Markfield (as having Parochial Boundary) | 53 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sheepshed (Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 1301 | 1 | 4 | †21 | 3 | 15 |
| Hathern (as being within Manor of Sheepshed) | 93 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Osgathorpe (by Prescription) | 0 | 0 | 0 | ‡13 | 0 | 15 |
| Thringstone (Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 57 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thorpe Acre and Dishley (by Prescription) | 646 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stanton (Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 419 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>5082</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>220</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>30</u> |

MR. HERRICK'S CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----|----|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Beaumanor (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 617 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Woodhose (ditto) | 92 | 1 | 15 | | | |
| Quorn (as part of Barrow) | 41 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Mountsorrel (ditto) | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Loughborough (as having a Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 102 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Woodthorpe (as being within Beaumanor and Parish of Loughborough) | 284 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| | <u>1140</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>15</u> | | | |

Not one of Mr. Herrick's claims was objected to: and it has been alleged that that gentleman might, with great justice, have somewhat extended them. The present proprietor of Beaumanor has made considerable additions to his Forest property by purchase.

MR. DAWSON'S CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Belton (as having Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 217 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Long Whatton (as being within the Manor of Sheepshed and Belton) .. | 1170 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grace Dieu (as being within Belton) | 4 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Osgathorpe (by Prescription) | 0 | 0 | 0 | ‡32 | 0 | 2 |
| Thringstone (as having Parochial and Manorial Boundary) | 45 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whitwick (ditto) | 42 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hathern (as part of Sheepshed) | 12 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kegworth (by Prescription) | 0 | 0 | 0 | ‡57 | 2 | 31 |
| | <u>1493</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>23</u> | <u>89</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>33</u> |

* Because no Stocking was proved.

† Because it belonged to the Canal Company.

‡ Because no Stocking was proved.

MR. BOSVILLE'S CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------|----|----|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Ulverscroft (as having a Manorial Boundary)..... | 772 | 2 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

THE HONOURABLE A. R. B. DANVERS' CLAIMS.

| | Claims allowed by the Commissioners. | | | Claims objected to. | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------|----|----|
| | A. | R. | P. | A. | R. | P. |
| In Barrow (as within Manor of Barrow)..... | 40 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Mountsorrel (as within Manor of Barrow)..... | 95 | 2 | 36 | | | |
| Woodhouse (as having Parochial Boundary)..... | 110 | 2 | 38 | | | |
| Newtown (as having Parochial and Manorial Boundary)..... | 70 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Swithland (ditto)..... | 816 | 0 | 7 | | | |
| Rothley (by Prescription)..... | 96 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| Thurcaston (ditto)..... | 567 | 3 | 28 | | | |
| Cropston (as within Groby)..... | 58 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | 1855 | 3 | 33 | | | |

Mr. Butler Danvers claimed on Rothley Plain, for the same quantity of land in Swithland, Rothley, Thurcaston, and Cropston.

Compensation for Manorial Rights was also claimed and allowed in all the preceding six cases.

One of the most singular claims was that of Great Wigston, situated nearly twenty miles from the Forest. It was made in consequence of some horse-dealers, resident at that place, having been accustomed, in their return from the Belton and the northern fairs, to turn in their horses, and to leave them there till the next neighbouring fair. It was, of course, disallowed.

A recapitulation of all the claims made, both on the Forest and Rothley Plain, would be more tedious than useful. In this place it will be sufficient to state, that the number of messuages claimed for were 3,631½; of sites, 181; of acres, 60,605, 3 roods, 20 perches.

The number of allotable acres, both on the Forest and Plain, are stated by Mr. Jackson, the highly respectable Surveyor, to have been only 11,500. From these, the land ordered to be set apart for building and endowing Chapels—the compensation for manorial rights, and for tithes—the land for roads, and the expenses of making them, and the whole cost of the Act, Commission, Surveys, &c., had first to be deducted.

One of the greatest items of expenditure was the outlay for making roads, which I state, on the authority of Mr. Jackson, to have been not less than sixty thousand pounds. For some of these purposes, extensive sales of Forest lands took place. The amount of land so sold was 2,558 acres on the Forest, and 60 acres on Rothley Plain.

To every proprietor whose claim had been admitted, about 3s. 6d. worth of Forest land was allotted for every £5. worth of the old inclosure for which he claimed; and for every messuage and every site, having right of common, 8s. worth of Forest land. Hence there were allotments so small as one-sixth of a perch.

One of the hardships committed by the inclosure will strike every visitor of the Forest—the absence of foot-paths. That in a district affording means of support to many hundreds of humble cottagers—means of recreation to thousands—not one yard of foot-path, not one acre of open ground should have been reserved, was at least a hardship. The poor, however, had perhaps an equivalent in the new field which was opened for their labour: and the public, in the improved roads which run in every direction, intersecting the hitherto almost impassable region.

One remarkable clause in the Act was, that formally disafforesting Charnwood.*

They who had predicted that the attempts to render the Forest profitable by the plough would prove futile, were astonished at the result of the first few years' culture. The sower who had the courage to hazard his seed, "might think himself fortunate," said the opponents of the inclosure, "if his crop returned the seed." What was their surprise, when the apparently sterile and valueless Broombriggs produced ten quarters of oats an acre!

True, this portion of Charnwood had the benefit of the skill and energy of one of the best practical agriculturists that ever set plough on the Forest—the late talented and lamented Mr. Charles Allsop. Those readers who knew that estimable and highly-gifted man, will not think some allusion to him, in this place, foreign to the subject of my history.

He was born in the parish of Wanlip, in the year 1780, and was descended from an old and most respectable agricultural family, who had for many years been tenants on the Wanlip estate. His excellent conduct, his quickness of apprehension, the ingenuousness of his mind, and the desire which he evinced to improve himself, attracted the notice, and subsequently secured for him the friendship and esteem of the late Sir Charles Hudson and his family: admitted into their society and intimacy, he gradually acquired habits and tastes, to which he otherwise might have been comparatively a stranger; and probably imbibed that love for literature which proved a recreation to him after many a weary hour of labour and toil, and a solace to him amidst the many domestic sorrows with which it pleased Providence to afflict him.

A matrimonial alliance which he formed in the year 1812, with Mary, the eldest daughter, and one of the co-heiresses of the late George Watkinson, Esq., of Woodhouse, first made him acquainted with the neighbourhood of Charnwood, and through this connexion he ultimately became the possessor of the Broombriggs estate.

The beauty of the Forest scenery attracted his imagination—the contemplated inclosure—the scope that it would give to bring his agricultural theories to the test, and his practical knowledge to bear—and above all, the good which he felt conscious he could accomplish—were incentives which his ardent mind was unable to resist, and led him to contemplate with less regret, the exchange which he shortly afterwards made of the richly-cultivated lands of Wanlip for the unbroken and apparently sterile soil of Broombriggs.

His mind was intent on his object: and within a short time after his residence on the borders of the Forest, the face of the country was wholly changed. By his skill and industry, the heath-clad hills became verdant pastures; the valleys were filled with luxuriant

* This, I believe, was a legal formulary, introduced into all Inclosure Acts where the lands to be inclosed have, at any time, been part of a Forest.

corn; and in the place of the furze and the fern, there was plentiful food for the use of man.

His successful exertions excited emulation amongst other farmers, and gave them assurance that their labours would be crowned with success, by showing them that the wilderness could be turned into a fruitful field; and it may be questioned whether many of the best cultivated Forest farms would have reached their present respectable state of cultivation, but for the example of Mr. Allsop.

He was visited with great affliction in the loss of his amiable wife and five children (the whole of his family), but the strength of his mind, and his high sense of religious duty, enabled him to struggle with his grief; it is, however, probable, that these bereavements laid the foundation of that disease which terminated his useful career. In the last few years of his life, having perfected the cultivation of his own farm, and having formed a friendship with the owner of the Beaumanor estate, he undertook the management of that property, and laid the foundation of many of the improvements which have since been gradually going on there.

Passionately fond of landscape gardening, many were the pleasant hours he spent in that seductive occupation. His own grounds and plantations were evidences of his great taste, and they now abundantly testify how successfully he sought to make amends to Nature for the loss of those wild beauties, of which she had been robbed by the inclosure.

Latterly he devoted himself with greater assiduity to his literary pursuits; he acquired a competent knowledge of Botany, but directed his attention more particularly to the study of Geology; and when Professor Sedgwick visited the Forest, in the year 1833, he showed himself so well acquainted with this interesting district, and afforded him so much local information, as led to future communications between them, and insured for him the kindness and esteem of that eminent man till the day of his death.

For several years after leaving Wanlip, and before his own house on Broombriggs was completed, Mr. Allsop took up his abode at Woodhouse Eaves: and, during his residence there, he became familiarly acquainted with the wants and difficulties of the poor around him. He viewed with pleasure their prosperity increasing in consequence of the employment which the cultivation of the Forest afforded them, and he was earnestly anxious that the improvement of their social, moral, and religious condition, should go hand in hand with their temporal prosperity.

He was aware that no great permanent good could be effected, unless there was a resident Clergyman, and unless endowed schools were established in the place. Under this impression, it was his intention (had his life been spared) to have made provision for the attainment of these objects; but being prematurely cut off, he could only communicate his dying wishes to his residuary Legatee, the present Miss Watkinson, of Woodhouse—and the very handsome Parsonage and Schools, at Woodhouse Eaves, are the lasting memorials of his munificence, and of the faithfulness of her to whom the unwritten trust was confided.

Thus he died, in August, 1836, having just completed his 56th year.

FOREST CHURCHES.

Moreover, when ye shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, ye shall offer an oblation unto the Lord :
an holy portion of the land.—*Ezekiel*, chapter xlv., verse 1.

It will not, it is presumed, be uninteresting either to the proprietors, inhabitants, or visitants of the Forest, to have some record of the manner by which the three Churches, or, properly speaking, Chapels, that add so much to its beauty, and contribute so largely to the welfare of the foresters, were erected.

Previously to the inclosure, the population, scattered over the centre of the Forest, from their remote situation, had no sanctuary; they were, in reality, "sheep without a shepherd." A solitary Meeting-house at Bardon, and a private meeting in some cottage near Snell's-lane, offered the only means of religious instruction within reach. No sooner, however, did it appear likely that the inclosure would be effected, than a neighbouring proprietor, who has been termed "the friend of Wilberforce and of humanity," zealously applied himself to the work of securing to the inhabitants of the district, places of worship suited to their wants. It is scarcely necessary to add, that this excellent individual was the late Thomas Babington, Esq., of Rothley Temple; at that time Member of Parliament for Leicester.

So early as 1805, Mr. Babington submitted to Dr. Pretymann, the Bishop of the Diocese, a plain statement of the spiritual destitution of the Charnwood Foresters, and of the necessity for introducing into the then pending Bill, a clause to secure the erection of Churches, and make a permanent provision for Clergymen to serve them. The Bishop entered warmly into the plan. The difficulties to be surmounted were of no ordinary nature, and but for the Christian zeal of Mr. Babington, it is not saying too much to add, that they would have proved insuperable. It was a matter of doubt whether it would be better to introduce a clause, rendering it compulsory upon certain Livings entitled to tithe allotments, to maintain Chapels of Ease in different parts of the Forest—or at once to provide for their erection. The latter plan was happily selected; and though the provision secured seemed, at the time, disproportionately small to the extent of territory, and to the probability of its becoming, at no distant period, a well-peopled district, a mode of accumulation was judiciously adopted, that has, after the lapse of thirty years, been found equal to the realization of the enlightened and benevolent views of these excellent persons. Three Churches, out of the four which were deemed requisite by the Bishop and Mr. Babington, have been erected and endowed. If they had foreseen that so considerable a share of the Forest would have been sold by the Commissioners in large lots, and that so many of the claims of the smaller proprietors would have been bought by wealthy and enterprising individuals—thus causing the farms to be of large size—and that no manufacture would be introduced—they would, no doubt, have been abundantly satisfied with the three which have been consecrated.

The Peculiar Exempt Jurisdiction of Groby (the origin of which has never been satisfactorily explained), belonging to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, extended over a very large part of the central Forest; in fact, to the boundaries of Sheepshed and Whitwick.

Desirous of transmitting to his posterity those rights which he had inherited, his Lordship could not, anxious as he was to forward Mr. Babington's plan, consent, without injustice, to surrender them. Provision had therefore to be made for their preservation, as well as for the arrangement of other difficulties. The Bishop of Lincoln, in a letter to Mr. Babington, dated December 7, 1805, sketched his view of the general tenor of the clause, the insertion of which he requested his correspondent to move during the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons, and was particularly desirous that it should be so framed as not to require a subsequent enactment. His Lordship's plans were embodied in the following clause, and it is due to most of the large proprietors to say, that claims urged from such a quarter met with a cheerful concurrence, which could scarcely have been expected from the influence of Mr. Babington, great as it deservedly was, in days when the Wild-more Fen Inclosure Act, A.D. 1801, was the only precedent the Bishop was able to produce of land having been assigned for the erection of Chapels in addition to the Tithe allotments. The only other previous instance of a like nature, on the inclosure of Needwood Forest, is not exactly in point, because there the land for a new Church was granted out of the allotment to the King, as Duke of Lancaster.

The Act of Inclosure provided "that there should be set apart land equal in value to two hundred acres, at the average value of the said Forest; having regard in setting out the same to the respective extent and value of so much of the Forest as is within the Ecclesiastical Peculiar Exempt Jurisdiction of Groby, and of the residue of the Forest not included in such Exempt Jurisdiction; and the Commissioners were required to allot and award so much of the said two hundred acres as shall be proportionate to the extent and value of the parts of the Forest included in the said Peculiar of Groby, unto and for the Lord of the Manor and Ecclesiastical Peculiar Exempt Jurisdiction of Groby, and the Commissary of the same, and their successors for the time being.

"And all the residue of such two hundred acres, unto and for the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, and the Archdeacon of Leicester, and the Lords of the several Manors of Groby, Whitwick, Beaumanor, Sheepshed, Ulverscroft, and Belton, for the time being, to be respectively held and enjoyed by them and their successors and heirs, as Freehold in Fee, for the use and benefit of such person or persons as may be duly appointed to serve as Minister or Ministers of any Chapel or Chapels which may hereafter be built, consecrated, and set apart for the public worship of Almighty God, according to the laws Ecclesiastical of this realm within the said Forest, for the use of such person and persons as may from time to time inhabit houses upon the Forest; and the nomination and appointment of the Minister or Ministers of such Chapel or Chapels, shall be and is vested in the Lords of the several above mentioned Manors; and in case of their not agreeing—in the major part of them—and in case of their being equally divided—the nomination to any Chapel, &c., to be erected within the limits of the Peculiar of Groby, shall be made by the Ordinary of the said Jurisdiction; and to any Chapel, &c., to be erected on any part of the Forest not included in the said Peculiar, by the Bishop of the Diocese for such turn or turns only; and until a Chapel or Chapels shall be so built and consecrated, and a Minister or Ministers duly appointed, the rents, issues, and profits of such pieces of land aforesaid, shall be, by the said respective

Trustees thereof, placed out at interest on Government securities, and the principal and interest arising from such rents, &c., shall *accumulate*, and be applied towards discharging the expenses of building any Chapel or Chapels, and house or houses, which may hereafter be erected within the said Forest, for the residence of the officiating Minister or Ministers of such Chapel or Chapels, and for the increasing of the stipend or stipends of any Minister or Ministers who may be so nominated and appointed to officiate in such Chapel or Chapels as aforesaid, or purchasing lands for his or their use as Glebe."

The Act received the Royal Assent June 18, 1808, and measures were speedily taken to render the Church building clause effective. For this purpose, as there were, of course, no funds immediately available, owing to the provision made for accumulations, Mr. Babington set on foot a subscription, and succeeded in raising about £600. amongst his relatives and personal friends. When it was decided to build the first Church in the Peculiar of Groby, the Earl of Stamford nobly gave £400. and lent £400. more; the latter sum, I believe, for the purpose of bringing into cultivation the land in his Lordship's Peculiar allotted for the Chapel. The Bishop of Lincoln gave £50., and a like sum was contributed by Mr. Bosville, the then Lord of the Manor of Ulvescroft. The other Lords of Manors, and proprietors, from the almost unavoidable jealousy occasioned by the manner in which the patronage was limited in the Act, reserved their donations for the Chapel or Chapels hereafter to be erected in those parts of the Forest not included in the Peculiar of Groby.

The building of the Oaks Chapel soon commenced, and on the 18th of June, 1815, while the memorable Battle of Waterloo was being fought, the Bishop of Lincoln consecrated this Chapel of the Wilderness! the first new Church built in this county for several generations, so far as I can learn.

The ceremony has been described as one of unusual solemnity; the fineness of the day, and the novelty of the scene, had attracted a great number of the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages; while those more specially interested in spreading the Gospel in this long benighted region, had been drawn from greater distances. A spectator, who beheld the perambulation of the Chapel yard from a neighbouring eminence, states, that the scene was altogether the most imposing he ever beheld on the Forest.

The inhabitants of the Forest, to commemorate the foundation of the first Forest Church, and struck, perhaps, by the coincidence of its being consecrated on what is now called "Waterloo-day," attempted for some years to keep up a wake on the anniversary; the custom, however, soon fell into disuse.

The beautiful Chapels at Copt Oak and Woodhouse Eaves, erected in 1837, were also the results of the clause already given: Mr. Herrick having kindly taken the same active part to procure subscriptions in aid which Mr. Babington had taken for the Oaks Chapel. There were, however, many difficulties to contend with, and the valuable and gratuitous legal assistance rendered by Mr. Cradock in removing them, deserves to be recorded. The appointments of Ministers were made, for the *first* time, February 28, 1838. The Rev. Matthew Drake Babington was appointed to the Oaks Chapel, and the Rev. R. W. Close to those at Copt Oak and Woodhouse Eaves. The Copt Oak and Woodhouse Chapels were erected after the elegant and chaste designs of Mr. Railton.

It must be most gratifying to the survivors who aided in the good work of securing the erection of the three Chapels, Schools, &c., to learn that their labours have not been in vain.

The Oaks Chapel has always had a tolerably large and an attentive congregation, many of whom, previously to its erection, were precluded from all opportunities of attending divine service.

The Woodhouse Eaves and the Copt Oak Chapels are also extremely well attended, and the Schools connected with them are in a most flourishing state. I visited those at Woodhouse Eaves in the present year, and I never left a similar institution with more favourable impressions. The children are evidently receiving the elements of a useful education, based on the foundation on which all instruction ought to rest—a sound knowledge of the Scriptures.

One source of regret, on leaving the Eaves Schools, naturally occurred to me—that he, by whose bounty they were raised, was not alive to witness the happy results of his own munificence—to enjoy, as he always did, the luxury of doing good!

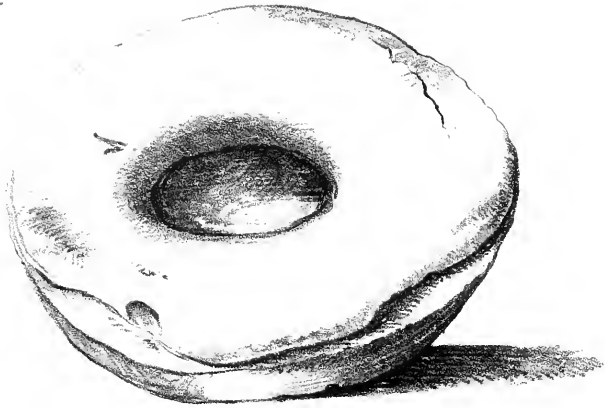
THE OAKS CHAPEL.



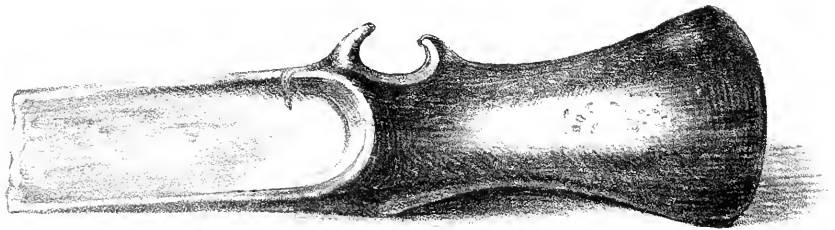


H A N G I N G S T O N E .

near the Jake Church.



HAND MILL.



CELT.

CHAPTER V.

ANTIQUITIES OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

Datur hæc venia Antiquitati.—*Livy.*

THE Antiquities of the Forest being generally referred to in the descriptions of the respective parishes to which they belong, may seem hardly to require a separate chapter. As, however, they are not unimportant, it appeared desirable to present them in one view—an arrangement which will save the antiquarian reader the trouble of a too frequent reference to the index.

Vague assertions that the Forest was one of the favoured haunts of Druidism, may be found in several writers, especially in Throsby, but I have not discovered in any work any evidence to support the statement. That it was the haunt of those venerated priests of a religion blending with gleams of the pure faith all the horrors and superstitions of idolatry. I shall attempt to prove. It will, I imagine, be at once conceded that a district, possessing so many natural temples and groves, was peculiarly adapted to Druid rites. Their strongholds have almost invariably been found to have been in rocky and remote places, as on Dartmoor, in the Peak of Derbyshire—in Wales—and in the landes of Brittany.

It has been well observed, that “every name is a history;” and, believing in the general truth of the observation, I am disposed to attach considerable importance to the etymology of several names still found on Charnwood, though it must be admitted that deductions of that kind are not *always* to be relied on.

Budd was the war-god of the Druids—we have Buddon Wood.

Apollo was worshipped by them under the name BELINUS—BELINTON was the spelling of Belton in Doomsday Book.

The BARDS formed that sect of the Druids which composed their choral hymns, and recounted the praise of their heroes—hence BARDON Hill.

SOLINA was a favourite Druidical idol—there is still a lane, skirting Sheepshed towards the Forest, called SCLING-ton road.

Another name seems to furnish a glimpse by which conjecture, at least, may try to find her way.

ANDRASTE, or ANDRATE, was worshipped by the ancient Britons as the goddess of spoils—hence the name of the now lost town of ANDRATES-berie, or ANDRETES-bury, which is shown elsewhere to have been probably near Beacon Hill.*

Now, distrustful as any one may be with regard to the degree of dependence to be

* An antiquarian friend, as has already been stated, is disposed to attach considerable importance to the word Challenge, or Challenge—the name of an ancient wood on the Forest—from the similarity of its termination to that of Stonehenge.

placed on etymologies, he cannot deny that here is a very remarkable concurrence of names; the more remarkable when they are all found circling such a spot as Charnwood, and when it can be proved that they have undergone little or no corruption since the earliest written records that we possess.—Having stated these presumptive proofs that Charnwood was a strong-hold of the Druids, I proceed to adduce others which may, perhaps, be considered of a less questionable character.

The engraving on the opposite page contains a Celt, discovered in planting Ben's Cliff, in 1818, and a Quern, or ancient Hand-mill, discovered on Kite Hill (Whitwick parish) in 1841.*

Great difference of opinion prevails amongst the learned as to the precise purpose for which these Celts were used. Fosbrooke believes they were tools for domestic use; Whitaker, that they were battle-axes; Stukeley, that they were Druidical hooks for cutting off the mistletoe; and others, that they were instruments used in sacrifice. All writers, however, agree in their great antiquity, and many in their having been used by the Druids. The one figured in these pages is, from its size and form, supposed to belong to an era much anterior to that of those having sockets. Several are engraved in Nichols which were discovered at Husbands Bosworth, all having sockets, but not one bears much resemblance to that found on the Forest; and it is evident, from their more finished workmanship, that they are more recent.† The ring, which is shown fractured in the engraving, but which appears perfect in several found at Husbands Bosworth, has been supposed by some antiquarians to have been for the purpose of a thong, which secured it, as the staff of a modern constable, to the arm of the warrior. The Rev. M. D. Babington, on forwarding this Celt to me, noticed the *Acidides*, said by Virgil (*Æn.* VII., 730) to have been used as missiles‡ by the primitive inhabitants of Campania, and conjectured that the ring may have served for a thong by which the Celt, after being hurled at an enemy, could be recovered, as Servius, Virgil's old scholiast, considered was the case with the *Acidides*. The remark of the same commentator, that they were so ancient as to be known only traditionally to have been used in war, is deemed by Mr. Babington of some importance in considering implements of such acknowledged antiquity and of such doubtful use as Celts.

My own opinion, from a close examination of the peculiarity of form, and the small size§ of the one figured in these pages, is, that it was inserted in a long cleft shaft, and used by the Druids for cutting off the mistletoe growing on branches too high to be reached from the ground. The gentleman just mentioned informs me that a friend of his was in the habit of pruning the lofty branches of his standard fruit trees by a chisel attached to a long staff, and forcibly driven upwards by a mallet, in the mode I conjecture the Celt to have been.

* For the former most curious and valuable relic of bygone ages, I am indebted to the favour of Mrs. Babington, of Rothley Temple—for the latter, to Kirkby Fenton, Esq., of Onebarrow Lodge, Charnwood Forest.

† Gough describes one found on the Malvern hills, five inches and a half long, with a beautiful patina upon it, and a small ring or loop. Dr. Lort, in the fifth volume of the *Archæologia*, page 106, mentions some found at *Herculanum*—probably carried from Gaul or Britain by Roman soldiers; or by the Gauls, in their invasions of Italy.

‡ ——— Teretes sunt acidides illis

Tela, sed hæc lento mos est aptare flagello.

§ It is exactly of the dimensions of the engraving.

But whatever may have been the uses to which this particular Celt was applied, its being discovered so far from any human habitation, and in a neighbourhood which tradition, at least, has assigned to the Druids, renders it a strong link in the chain of proof I am attempting.

The Quern, or Hand-mill, was discovered by Mr. Fenton's labourers, when breaking up the old Forest turf with the spade. Its diameter is about thirteen inches; and the lower stone—"the nether millstone" of the Scriptures—has all the hardness and asperity proverbially ascribed to such stones. It appears more like a body of cemented conglomerate than a natural stone, and has evidently no affinity to any of the Forest rocks, while the upper stone decidedly has. In the small indentation near the edge, the thumb of the person grinding or turning was inserted, and the corn, lowered from a vessel held in the other hand, passed, after a few turns, in its triturated state, into a receptacle placed beneath it.

Gough states that two Querns were discovered near the curious group of Druidical monuments on Durwood Tor, Derbyshire; and that others have been found in Yorkshire and Wiltshire.* Such hand-mills are yet in common use in the Hebrides.

So far as I can ascertain, no Quern has ever been discovered except in localities in which there were also Druidical monuments.

At a very short distance from the spot on which this Quern was found, is the singular stone (see engraving) called Hanging Stone—a name which it has probably borne from very remote times; and I attach considerable importance, in the establishing of my proposition, to the proximity of these two ancient relics to each other.

Many have entertained a belief that the upper of these Hanging Stones was artificially raised upon the platform of the other. The geologist arrives at a different conclusion, and accounts for most of them by means purely natural. But whether the stones were placed in their present extraordinary position by nature or art, they must, in times when superstition held the minds of men under its sway, have been contemplated with extreme veneration. And it should be remembered, that wherever such apparently mysterious formations presented themselves, the Druids, ever alive to what might be auxiliary to their influence over the people, did not fail to turn them to good account. Even in these days, the stranger cannot behold the pile without feelings approaching to awe. No one riding up to the lower side of it, on a spirited horse, can fail to observe the emotion of the animal; and an old forester states, that Mr. Gisborne's Scotch cattle, on their first arrival, always gaze at it with wonder! "I take care," added he, "never to be near it after twilight has begun!"

These stones bear a striking resemblance to those in Wales and Derbyshire, which antiquaries have almost unanimously pronounced Cromlechs. "The word *Crom* signifies *crooked*, or *bending*, and *lech* a *flat stone*. Hence the belief that they were altars, or objects to which the antients bowed."* A pile more likely to be selected as an object of idolatrous veneration could not easily be found.†

Near Beaumanor is, or rather was, another Hanging Stone—"for ages the wonder and admiration of beholders"‡—of a form totally different from the one just described. Of this

* Gough's Additions to Camden's Britannia.

† Mr. Lester, of Woodhouse, states that, fifty years ago, he has frequently made this stone *rock*, by a slight force applied to a certain part of it.

‡ Throsby.

Throsby took a drawing in March, 1791, tying his little horse under it: and on the 8th of April the ponderous mass fell. He quaintly, but appropriately, moralizes on the consequences of a pebble stone falling on the extremity of the projecting part while he was under it; he would have been "the fly"—the stone the "wagon wheel."

The base of this stone, which is still standing, is about six feet square. Upon this rested "another stone, quite separate, so that you saw between them; and the top hung so much as to have the appearance of falling off."* This description gives good grounds for the conjecture that it had, at a remote period, been a Rocking Stone; and an examination of the area on which it stood, and of the lower part of the mighty mass itself, will strongly incline an attentive observer to that opinion.†

Nearer to Woodhouse Eaves, at the other end of the romantic range of rocks called the Hanging Stones, is a kind of rude stone table, about five yards long and two wide. There are strong reasons for believing it was placed there by art, as it lies horizontally and on a different level from the surrounding masses, and its supporters seem to have been artificially placed. This may have been a sacrificial altar.

"The Arch Druid, who, it may be, standing there,
Dyed it with human immolations, calling
On the grey ghosts, the riders of the clouds—
Or moon—or to the lightnings of the night—
Or war-god, deaf as winds that whistled by them—
Whilst Celtic savages howled beneath—is past!"

A curious *circle* of stones may be found on the hill above this altar.

But to return to the Oaks Hanging Stone.—A spot which is about the centre of a triangle formed by that stone, Kite Hill and the Tin Meadows, was, according to the information of an old Forest Keeper of Lord Hastings', always called "the Grove" before the inclosure. It may, in early times, have been a grove to some temple, or to the Hanging Stone Cromlech.

The now solitary stone called the HANGMAN'S STONE, between Lubeloud and Ives Head, is very like one of a Druidical circle: and it may be that, from the circumstances of the legend long connected with it, it was left standing when its fellows were removed. It resembles, both in its form and dimensions, the stones composing the circle called the Nine Ladies, on Arbor Low, Derbyshire.

On Strawberry Hill, on the estate of Mr. Kirkby Fenton, is a singularly-formed stone seat, apparently excavated out of the solid rock, and rudely but completely canopied. It is very like one on Durwood Tor, Derbyshire, which Mr. Rooke pronounced to be an "Augurial seat." Certainly a fitter spot for the delivery of auguries could scarcely be selected; the space before the chair being a kind of sloping amphitheatre, just adapted to give the Arch Druid the command of the listening crowd. Ivy, which seems almost coeval with the rock, has wreathed its "wild tapestry" all over it; and I felt confident, when the obliging

* Throsby.

† Adolphus Trollope, in his "Summer in Brittany," describes a very similar stone, called "Les roulers"—near Le Camp d'Artus—which he thinks of fortuitous formation; though the French antiquaries pronounced it the work of the Druids.

proprietor of the estate first pointed out this remarkable spot to my notice, that this, and not the Hermitage near Sharpley, as before conjectured, was the place alluded to by Drayton, when he says, speaking of Sharpley rocks—

“And in a Dimble near (even as a place divine
For contemplation fit), an ivy-ceiled bower,
As Nature had therein ordain'd some Sylvan power.”

It is observed by Weaver, in his “*Munimenta Antiqua*,” and also by other antiquaries, that in the neighbourhood of all Druidical monuments, there are always found Barrows. It is so at Stonehenge, in the Peak, and in Wales. The only earthwork I have discovered on Charnwood, bearing any resemblance to an ancient Barrow, is a circular elevation, about nine yards in diameter and two yards high, situated on Kellam's farm, near Bardon Hill.* But the word Barrow, as a name, occurs with remarkable frequency on the Forest and its borders. Barrow, Barrow Wood, Billa-barrow Hill, One-barrow Hill, Barrow Cloud Hill, &c., will lead any one, however slightly versed in antiquarian lore, to investigate such localities with attention.† *One-barrow* is still more significant than the simple word; the prefix seems to denote that some one remarkable personage was inhumed there. For myself, when examining a small square inclosure, formed by immense stones on the western summit of that beautiful and wonderful hill, I could not forbear exclaiming—

“In yonder grave a Druid lies!”

Again—there is an ancient road, supposed to be British, and afterwards used by the Romans,‡ which, crossing the Fosse at Seg's Hill, almost at right angles, and proceeding through Barrow and parts of Quorn and Beaumanor, has been traced to a point between Beacon Hill, Broombriggs, and Alderman's Haw, where all marks of it are lost. A supposition that it led to the salt-mines at Droitwich, seems completely destroyed by the fact that, a line continued in the same bearing would pass through Staffordshire, leaving Droitwich many miles to the south. If, therefore, it was an ancient British road before it was used by the Romans, its apparent termination, near the supposed site of Andratesbery, gives ground for the belief that it was formed for the use of the ancient Britons, when frequenting, as they did three times a year, the great Druidical Festivals.§

On the summit of the Mount of Alderman's Haw (so called in 1588; see Nichols, III, 1092), now called Baldwin Castle, is a rock, scarcely less remarkable in its form than the Oaks

* Mr. Jacob Hood, the highly-respected proprietor of Bardon, inclines to the opinion that the spot was the remains of an ancient Keep: but its low situation renders that supposition improbable.

† Nichols suggests that Barrow-upon-Soar may have derived its name from the *shape* of the hill on which it stands. How would he have accounted for Barrow-upon-Trent, which is on a perfect level? The latter name, however, is satisfactorily accounted for, by the proximity of the Barrows called Swarkstone Lowes.

‡ The Rev. T. Leman, in his observations on the Roman Roads and Stations in Leicestershire, unhesitatingly pronounces this road of British *formation*; Stukeley, however, considered it British.

§ The Annual Wake, now kept on Nanpantan, but formerly kept on Beacon, the origin of which is lost in obscurity, may be a remnant of one of these festivals.

Hanging Stone. Its top is a platform, to all appearance levelled by art: and on this, I conjecture, the great idol Andrate may have stood.

This is the amount of the evidence which I have been able to collect in favour of Charnwood having been an abode of the Druids. An able antiquarian, from the same data, would probably have made the case much stronger.

THE ROMANS ON CHARNWOOD.

If the foregoing evidence in favour of Charnwood having been inhabited by the Druids prove at all satisfactory, the antiquarian reader will be the more disposed to look for traces of the Romans in the neighbourhood. He will have noticed, that wherever the invaders observed the chief seats of the Celtic priesthood, to those points they particularly applied their energies. In fact, as the routed Britons invariably flew to their groves and temples, for the divine protection which they expected the Druids would insure or procure them, it was a natural consequence that the Romans should try to dislodge them, and locate themselves in their strong-holds. Thus Paulinus, the Roman General, invested by Nero with the command of the army in Britain, observing that Mona (Anglesea) was a seat of the Druids, and a refuge for the defeated Britons, resolved to reduce it. The sight of the venerable Druids assembled round the army, and with uplifted hands invoking the vengeance of their gods, struck such terror into the Romans as almost to induce them to retreat. Encouraged, however, by their General, they at length drove the Britons from the field, and burned the Druids in the fires which the latter had prepared for the immolation of their enemies, and utterly demolished the altars of sacrifice and the sacred groves.*

So it may have been on Charnwood; and a circumstance like the one just described may account for so few vestiges of Druidism having escaped Roman violence.

Gale† places the Roman Vernometum at “*Charnley*,” and the arguments by which he supports his opinion are not devoid of force. He says, he “finds in the name (Vernometum) traces of the word *Guern*, (British) an alder, as also in Quarendon and in the name of the ancient forest of Cherne:‡ and traces of Roman names in Longborough, Burghley, and Barrow—but,” he adds, “the *miles* fix the station at Charnley.”§ Now there is no place of that name on the Forest, but the word was formerly in general use to designate the whole tract. There is no place on Charnwood to which this passage of Gale’s would more dispose an antiquarian to look for a Roman station or encampment than Beacon Hill. Its central

* The Coritani, says Richard, of Cirencester (Book I., chap. 6), lived in a tract of country overspread with woods, which, like all woods of Britain, were called Caledonia—(Calyddon means coverts, or thickets). And Florus, the Historian, speaking of Caesar, says, “Caledonias sequutus in sylvas”—(Book III., chap. 10).

See Rose’s *Historia Technica Anglicana*.

† Quoted in Gough’s *Camden*, Vol. II., page 212.

‡ *Cernewoda* is the earliest name of Charnwood to be met with; it was so called temp. Henry I. *Cernelega* is the name for Charley in Domesday Book, and was still so temp. Henry I.—(Nichols, *Vol. III.*, p. 120.) A witness to a Deed of William de Ferratis is Gilbertus de *Boschermia*, or Gilbert of Charnwood.—(See Nichols’ *West Goscote*, under Tonge). The early name, noticed in page 6, was, I find, taken from an old legend.

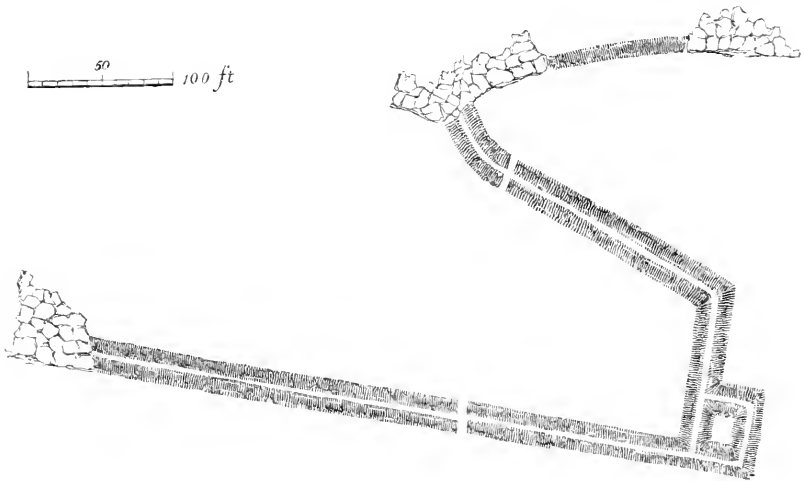
§ Antoninus places Vernometum twelve miles from Ratæ.

and commanding situation, as well as its very name, and its proximity to the ancient road (whether of British or Roman foundation), are reasons that will have weight with the inquiring antiquary. Its signal fires would be observed from no less than six undoubted Roman stations.* Bar Beacon, near Birmingham, would appear to have been one of the “answering fires.”

Led by Gale’s remark, I commenced a strict search for Roman remains on this hill: and discovered, on the south-west and unprotected side, some works which I think I am not mistaken in pronouncing indubitable vestiges of ancient fortification. The camp may have been of Saxon formation—but I incline to the opinion that the remains are

“The mouldering lines
Where Rome, the mistress of the world,
Of yore her eagle wings unfurl’d.”

From the ancient road already alluded to, we find, just at the point that offers the best ascent up the acclivity, an elevated road, forming an inclined plane. Following this, we arrive at a point that appears to have been the entrance, where the castrametation becomes well defined. Hence a mound runs on the lower or south-western side to a rock which appears to have flanked it: and nearly parallel with this mound, but higher up the hill, is another, terminated also by a rock: forming together two sides of a trapezium. But the form will be better understood by the following rough sketch:—



* Signal fires are so obvious a mode of transmitting intelligence, that they have been used in all ages. Those of the Greeks are beautifully described in the *Agamemnon* of Æschylus.

The plan is almost a perfect facsimile of a camp at Humington, near Ancaster; and it is somewhat singular, that Beacon, Humington, and a Roman camp at South Ormsby, are all in the direct line to Salt-fleet, from whence salt was probably brought to the midland districts.* A field in Quorn was called Saltgate in 1607,† and Salby is the name of a village situated very near the point where this road enters Leicestershire.

Mr. Langham, of Needless Inn, informs me that he well remembers that, thirty-four years ago, there stood, on the highest point of Beacon, an erection of rude and ancient masonry, about six feet high, of a round form, and having in its centre a cavity about a yard deep and a yard in diameter, the sides of which were very thickly covered with burnt pitch. This, he says, had all the appearance of having been used for holding the beacon fires.‡ He remembers, too, that at that period, the entrenchments above described were much more visible than they are now. He is the only person with whom I have conversed that seems ever to have noticed them, except Mr. William Lester, of Woodhouse; and they are not mentioned by any writer whatever, unless Gale's remark applied to them. I discovered, by digging, many heaps of nearly perished mortar, mingled with fragments of stone and dark red brick.

An examination of the above plan, when laid down, and a comparison of it with some similar ones in Gough's Camden, suggested the idea that the mound and rampart, which appear terminated by the rock on the western side, would probably be found continued in other parts of the hill, not naturally fortified by precipitous rock. Accordingly, on the 8th of March of the present year, I again visited Beacon, and found that my conjecture had been correct. The lines of fortification are continued along the entire circumference of the hill—in several places, indeed, they are double—always so in the most accessible parts.

Even after the lapse of nearly two thousand years, and in a situation extremely exposed to the varying action of the elements, the fortifications, in many parts, still retain so much of their original boldness as to be truly astonishing. On the north-east and eastern sides, within the entrenchments, are several square and oblong lines of time-worn stones—apparently the foundations of buildings. It is chiefly opposite these that the trench and rampart are double. It would appear, that if these fortifications were Roman, the part described in the first wood cut was the summer, and this the winter camp.

Between the two tops of our Parnassus (for, like that classical hill, Beacon has also two apices), the ruins of the circular Beacon Tower, already alluded to, are still plainly perceptible. It is five yards in diameter. An elevation of a foot above the surface, surrounded by the foundation of a wall, strongly cemented together, is all that can now be traced. I am disposed to consider the tower of considerable antiquity; it may, indeed, be coeval with the fortifications that surround it. The spot on which it stands would, in a Roman Camp, have been the Prætorium.

* Stukeley MS. (quoted by Gough in his *Coritani*, p. 251), where he says, "Salters' Road, adjoining Denton, may have been used by the Romans for bringing salt from Holland to Leicester and the inland parts."

† Nichols' *West Goscote*, page 166.

‡ The almost imperishable nature of pitch is shown by the letters on ancient tombs: retaining, after many centuries, all the freshness of newly-melted bitumen.

Not satisfied with my single opinion of these extraordinary remains, I requested Mr. Lester, a highly intelligent farmer and surveyor, who lives at the foot of Beacon, to examine them. He was perfectly astonished! Though long resident, almost upon the spot, and aware of the remains described as lying on the south-west side of the hill, it had never occurred to him that there were others. "Often," says he, "as I have crossed that wonderful hill, and always with the feeling that it was a *charmed* spot, I have either been so occupied with the distant prospects, or so circumscribed in my immediate view by the inequalities of the surface, that I have never before once noticed the most remarkable fortifications to which you have directed me. Judge my surprise when I found myself standing, and feeling pretty sure that I stood, on the site of an ancient British or Roman town." Mr. Lester entered into the discovery with all the enthusiasm of a true antiquarian, and by his assistance I am enabled to present my readers with the following accurate plan of the whole:—



REFERENCE.

- b.* Remains of Beacon tower. *r.* Precipitous rocks. *c.* Modern wall. *d.* Foundations of ancient walls.
e. Beacon road—supposed part of ancient Saltway.

The most singular part of this encampment is the eastern corner of it. The point commands the whole valley, and has what, in modern fortification, would be called a curtain, formed of rock. This point, with the remains of walls lying above it, is extremely worthy the attention of the antiquarian. The foundations of walls (marked *c c*) appear in many places three yards thick, and to have been formed by large stones on the outsides, having the intervening space filled with small stones; at least, such was my impression, after causing several excavations to be made. It was only on the foundation stones that any mortar was discoverable—and that in very small quantities. *Ipsæ periëre ruinaë!*

An ancient battle-axe was found in ploughing a field at the foot of Beacon Hill. It is now in the possession of Miss Watkinson, of Woodhouse. That lady has also some coins of Vespasian and Antoninus Pius, found near.*

Such are the hitherto unnoticed remains on Beacon Hill. My readers will pardon me if adopting, as I feel, a diffidence suited to one who has hitherto written nothing to entitle his opinion, as an antiquarian, to great weight, I prefer rather to leave them to their own speculations as to the original constructors of these fortifications, than indulge in a presumptuous positiveness. Gale's observations—the square vallum at the south-west corner—and the coins and battle-axe discovered close by, strongly dispose me to believe that the Romans, at least, repaired the lines. If, however, I am denied the gratification of having located the Romans on Beacon, I must be permitted to look in its neighbourhood for the long-lost Andraetesbury—and the upsetting of my theory with regard to our first conquerors, will only tend to furnish arguments in favour of a discovery, of equal, if not of greater interest. No person, at all alive to what has relation to the distant past, can fail to derive peculiar pleasure in investigating such a site as that which I have attempted to describe. Even the ordinary observer will view these remains, grey with the mists of ages, with feelings of no common gratification, and probably with surprise that they have so long escaped the notice of the topographer and antiquarian.

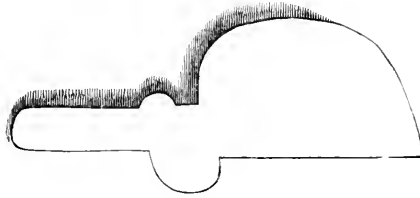
The wonderful prospects afforded from this remarkable eminence will be dwelt on in the Parochial History.

But even if the conjecture that Beacon Hill may have been the Roman station referred to by Gale should prove ill-grounded, there is another spot on Charnwood which, with respect to the "miles," exactly coincides with the Itinerary he quotes. The Tynte Meadows are situated exactly twelve miles from Ratæ (Leicester), and in a direct line between that place and Derwentio (Little Chester).

On June 16, 1840, as the Monks of Mount St. Bernard, who are owners of these meadows, were ploughing a piece of land which they were reclaiming from the waste, the ploughshare came in contact with a large earthen vessel, of peculiar mould, which proved to be of Roman manufacture. In this vessel was discovered a large mass of ancient coins, matted together in a most singular manner, measuring twenty-two inches in circumference, and weighing about twelve pounds. In this lump there could not have been fewer than two thousand coins—many of which were in admirable preservation, and the inscriptions very plainly legible. They bore the names of Gallienus, Postumus, Victorinus, Tetricus,

* I make the statement with respect to the coins on the authority of Mr. Lester, of Woodhouse.

Claudius, Carausius, &c. Besides the coins, there was discovered a small arrow or spear-head, three inches long and of the following shape :—



Also, a small round article, having the appearance of a Roman lamp, and composed of reddish clay or terra cotta.—Pieces of Roman vases, and fragments of pottery, were found in great abundance.

A few of the coins discovered shall here be given, but I enter with reluctance on the description, from a consciousness of my utter inability to do justice to it, and from the difficulty of deciphering such rude engravings in the absence of the originals.



Washed
Brass.



I. M. P. GALLIENUS, AVG.—He was the son of Valerian, and was proclaimed Emperor in Gaul A.D. 253. He was a cruel tyrant, and was murdered by one of his Generals, Martian, at Milan.—The S. C. upon brass coins, according to Pinkerton, ceased with Gallienus, and his silver was only washed brass.



3d.
Silver.



I. M. P. C. POSTUMVS. PF. AVG.—The Emperor's head, bearded, with a radiated crown. Reverse, PROVIDENTIA AVG.—A female figure holds an orb in her right hand, a spear obliquely in her left. An Officer, proclaimed Emperor in Gaul A.D. 260.



Silver.
Base metal



I. M. P. VICTORINVS. P. F. AVG.—One of the nineteen candidates for the Imperial Purple, during the reign of Gallienus, A.D. 268. Reverse illegible.



Brass.



I. M. P. TETRICVS. P. F. AVG.—He was proclaimed Emperor A.D. 268. His coins are usually found with the legend PACT—and he was of a truly pacific character.

The four engraven (!!) coins are in the collection of Mr. Ambrose March Phillipps, of Gracedieu Manor, to whose kindness I am indebted for the loan of them.

The following, in an inferior state of preservation, were obligingly forwarded to me by Mr. T. Burgh Dalby, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Mr. J. J. Briggs, of King's Newton, who procured them from the Monks of Mount St. Bernard very shortly after the discovery:—

I. M. P. C. POSTVMVS P^L. AVG. Reverse, FIDES MILITVM.—A female figure holds in her hand a military sign.—*Base brass.*

I. M. P. VICTORINVS PF. AVG. Reverse, SALVS AVG.—A female figure stands by an altar, holding in her left hand a patera, out of which a serpent is drinking. In her left she holds an erect spear. The obverse also differs, in several respects, from that of the same Emperor engraved in the preceding page.—*Third brass.*

..... CLAVDIVS AVG. Reverse corroded and utterly illegible, except VC. or VG.—This was presented to me as an undoubted CLAUDIUS NERO: but the Rev. M. D. Babington and two other antiquaries to whom I submitted it, unhesitatingly pronounced it a CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS.—*Brass.*

CARAVSIVS.—A very fine head, encircled by a laurel crown. Reverse, apparently a bireme, surrounded by the legend FELICITAS very legible, and apparently the letters R. S. B.

It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence, that in the parish of Epperstone, on the borders of Sherwood Forest, and close to the supposed Roman Camp at Woodborough, about one thousand coins or medals of the same Emperors, but all in copper, were discovered in a similar earthen vase, in 1776. Mr. Walter Merrey, in his "*Remarks on the Coinage of England*," thus enumerates them from his own inspection:—

| <i>A. D.</i> | <i>Emperors.</i> | <i>No. of Medals.</i> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 254 | Gallienus | 60 |
| | Salonina, wife to Gallienus..... | 4 |
| 266 | Posthumus | 10 |
| 268 | Claudius Gothicus | 72 |
| | Divo Claudio | 19 |
| 268 | Victorinus | 126 |
| | Pia Victorinus | 2 |
| 268 | Tetricus..... | 215 |
| | C. Piv. Tetricus | 89 |
| 271 | Quintillus | 4 |
| 286 | Carausius | 3 |
| | Cl. Ælianus* | 1 |
| | Not legible | 179 |
| | | <hr/> 784 |

* This, perhaps, should be Æmilianus.

The remaining number had been dispersed before Mr. Merrey was apprized of them. The foregoing list is given in order that the reader may be enabled to form some opinion of the unexamined mass, still preserved at Mount St. Bernard in the state they were discovered. It is probable, from those coins already dissevered, that in that mass would be found every coin in Mr. Merrey's list. If so, the period in which both the vases were deposited must have been subsequent to A.D. 286.

There is, perhaps, no circumstance connected with Roman customs, for which it is so difficult to assign a reason, as their frequent concealment of coin in all parts of their colonial possessions. Pinkerton says, "It was no doubt a custom with that victorious people, in every instance ardently desirous of fame, to bury parcels of their coin as a monument of their having possessed the ground!" This supposition appears an irrational one; it by no means accounts satisfactorily for the concealment of such quantities as those found at Epperstone and Mount St. Bernard. The motives may, indeed, have been various, but the general uniformity of depth in the ground, and the use of earthen vessels, would almost lead to the conclusion that they were the same.

As, however, earthenware was not the most suitable receptacle for the coin, in which to transport it from place to place, it may generally be inferred, that wherever it is found in vases the Romans had been permanently located. Where warlike instruments and earthworks are discovered in the neighbourhood of coins, as is the case both at Beacon and Mount St. Bernard, the discovery has much greater interest, and becomes more historically valuable.

The usurpation of Carausius—his murder by Alectus—and the succession of the assassin to his throne—are circumstances that may, perhaps, furnish some grounds for conjecture both as to the *motive* and the *time* of concealing these treasures. Constantius being at Boulogne when the intelligence of the death of Carausius reached him, dispatched his Prefect Asclepiodatus, an Officer of distinguished skill and valour, into Britain, in order to re-establish the Roman power which, for seven years, had been entirely lost to the empire in this island.

The fleet of Alectus being stationed near the Isle of Wight, Asclepiodatus availed himself of a thick fog, and effected a landing on the western coast. He had no sooner disembarked than he burnt his ships, in order to infuse determination into the imperial troops, and advanced into the centre of the kingdom. It was then, I believe, that some of the Roman forces that had previously revolted with Carausius, and had subsequently joined Alectus, flying from the Prefect left the hidden treasures found near Mount St. Bernard and at Epperstone.*

In addition to the evidence afforded by the discovery of these coins, spear, vases, &c., I must mention that, on the south, east, and west of the *first* building erected by the Monks of Mount St. Bernard, there are still visible *several* ancient mounds; one forty yards by eight, and inclosed by a trench, having all the appearance of a Roman military work. Connecting this mound with the coins, and the situation of the spot (on a line between two undisputed

* The whole of the Roman auxiliaries that guarded the island had, it should be recollected, joined Carausius, and with the fickleness peculiar to that soldiery, as readily gave in their adhesion to his murderer.

stations), the most sceptical must admit that a strong case is made out for believing that the Tynte Meadow was at least a military post. That either this place or Beacon Hill was the Vernometum, or Verometum of the Romans, I would by no means be so bold as to assert. I well know that some itineraries are almost conclusive in favour of Willoughby—still those “*A Gessoriaco*,” as given in Hollinshed (*Vol. I., p. 420 of the reprint*), might fairly raise a doubt; and the uncertainty which has prevailed amongst antiquarians in fixing this station, together with Gale’s remarks, makes me anxious, if possible, to turn that doubt in favour of “Charnley,” or at least to call attention to its claims.*

At Markfield, which is also in the direct line from Derventio to Ratæ, there was standing, at the time the Forest was inclosed, a remarkable stone, called “The Altar Stone.” An aged man, named Jarvis, still living at Markfield, states that he “well remembers this stone; that it was covered with *outlandish letters*, and was removed when cultivation began, because it was in the centre of a field.” The name seems to justify an opinion that it was a Roman altar. It may, indeed, have only been a milliære, like that found at Thurmaston, and now standing in Belgrave-gate, Leicester.†

The ancient name of the village near which this relic of antiquity stood was Mark-in-field, or Merc-en-feld:‡ and that the name was derived from this “Altar stone” is by no means unlikely.§

The author of “*Melbourne*”—a work which fairly entitles its writer to be considered a sound antiquarian—strongly inclines to the opinion that a minor Roman road must have been formed between two such important stations as Ratæ and Derventio. If this really was the case, this *interstationary* road must have branched from the Via Devana, at or near to the very spot on which stood the Altar-stone.

Having now, with regard to the Romans at least, rather opened a field for further investigation, than obtained evidence on which it would be safe to hazard a positive opinion, I leave the reader to form his own conclusions, and reserve all remark on the later ANTIQUITIES of the Forest to be interwoven in the Parochial History.

* The variation of the name, and the uncertainty of the true situation of Vernometum, or Verometum, give some grounds for the supposition that they may, after all, have been *different* stations. Camden, Burton, and Stukeley, place Vernometum at Burrow-on-the-Hill—modern writers, I am aware, have, with one or two exceptions, agreed on fixing it at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds. The latter place seems, however, a most unlikely spot for a great Temple, which Venantius shows to have been the meaning of Vernometum in the old Gaulic:—

“*Nomine Vernometum voluit vocitare vetustas
Quod faunm ingens Gallica lingua sonat.*”

A fitter place than Beacon, for such a Temple, could scarcely be imagined.

† A Roman altar, discovered near Haddon Hall, Derbyshire, has been judiciously placed, by the Duke of Rutland, in the porch leading to that celebrated Baronial mansion.

‡ Merc, in Saxon, signifies mark.

§ The Reverend Robert Martin, who has kindly interested himself in this discovery, suggests that, as the stone stood at the junction of the parishes of Markfield and Newtown Linford, it may have been a Mere stone, and may have derived its name from the boundary *altering* at that point. This hypothesis would not, however, account for the “outlandish letters.” Besides, remarkable objects were quite as frequently agreed upon as marks of boundary, as fresh marks or meres erected.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PAROCHIAL HISTORY OF CHARNWOOD.

THE present portion of the work contains the four great divisions of the Forest, or those parts belonging to Barrow, Groby, Whitwick, and Sheepshed, to which reference has already been made. In these, the Monastic Foundations will be described in the divisions in which they are situated, viz. :—Alderman's Haw, and Charley Priory, under Barrow ; Ulverscroft, under Groby ; the new Foundation, called Mount St. Bernard, under Whitwick ; and Garendon, Gracedien, and Holy-well Hermitage, under Sheepshed. It may be objected that not one of the villages, set down as the respective heads of this division, lies within the Forest boundary. They were, however, the places to which the Forest was of the greatest importance, and the lordships in which the greater part of it is parochially situated. After the ancient and modern history of each lordship, the reader's attention will be drawn to whatever is picturesque, curious, or interesting in each, and the subjects of the engravings will be minutely described.

BARROW-UPON-SOAR.

(Baro, Baroo, Barrough, Barhoo, Barwe, Barwa, Barwa.)

The parish of Barrow, though the village itself, as has just been stated, is not within the verge of the Forest, includes so large a part of it, and was in feudal times so closely connected with it, as to be fairly entitled to a prominent place in any description of Charnwood. The lordship, or parts of it, having been the possession of the brave but unfortunate Harold—of the Norman Earls of Chester*—of the Black Prince—of Sir Walter Manny—and of many distinguished men of later times—are circumstances that invest it with great interest. Then its being situated on an ancient British or Roman road—its wonderful geological features—the fine scenery that surrounds it—and its having been the birth-place of one of the greatest ornaments to the Episcopal Bench—give it additional claims to notice.

Burton says, “ this Mannor was anciently the land of the Earl of Chester, and came by marriage to William de Albany, Earl of Arundell, who married Mabell, sister and co-heire to Ranulfe Earle of Chester and Leicester: whose daughter Nicola, sister and co-heire of Hugh Earle of Arundell, brought this Mannor to Roger de Somery Baron of Dudley, who

* Comes Hugo tenet de Rege Barhoo. * * * Hoc manerium tenet Heraldus comes cum appendiciis.—

(Doomsday, Fol. 237, a. 1.)

by her had issue four daughters: one of them called Maud married to Sir Henry de Erdington, who by his wife had this Mannor. It continued in the name of Erdington until the reign of King Edward 4th, at which time the last Thomas de Erdington being attainted* by King Edward 4th, (7 Ed. 4.) granted it to William Lord Hastings."

Burton omits to mention that this lordship was once a part of the possessions of the Saxon King Harold, who was slain at the Battle of Hastings. It was probably through its having belonged to his fallen rival, that the Conqueror so soon conferred it on his relative.

The partition of the estates of Roger de Somery, consequent upon the marriage of his daughters, has already been stated.

There appears to be some ground for a belief that a Castle, or Baronial Manor House, was at one time at Barrow. The expressions "*Curia Comitum*" (the Earl's Court)—"*aque-ductum labentem in vinarium† domini Comitum Cestrie*"—"Parcum de Barwá," &c.—can scarcely be understood, unless on this supposition. The terms might, indeed, have been applied to Beaumanor, but that the Courts appear to have been entirely distinct. And Hugh de Albini, who died 1243, in a Grant to the Abbey of Garendon for pasturing all their cattle in the lordship of Barrow, excepts his Park at Barrow.

A gentleman whom I have frequently consulted in the course of my inquiries, the Rev. M. D. Babington, makes the following valuable remarks on this somewhat doubtful subject:—"I can see no traces of a Park having ever existed in that part of the parish which is *now called Barrow*. On the other hand, I think it may be shown, by comparing several ancient Deeds, that it was situate on the western side of the Soar. Ranulph, the third Norman Earl of Chester, between 1119 and 1128, conveyed an extensive tract in and near Charnwood Forest, '*his Park at Barrow excepted*,' to King Henry I.,‡ who re-granted it to Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, by whom a large share of it was bestowed on the Abbey of Garendon. When this Deed was recited in a Charter of *Inspeximus* by King Henry VI.,§ the expression was changed into '*præter parcum meum*,' and when copied into the Garendon Register|| it was altered in the same manner.

"Ranulph, the next Earl, between 1133 and 1153, granted to the Monks of Garendon right of pasture throughout the Forest, '*excepto parco meo de Barwá.*'¶ This Deed, entered in the Garendon Register, was headed "*Carta Comitum Cestrie de communi pastura totius memoris sui, præter parcum.*"

"Hence it appears that the Earls of Chester had only *one* Park in this neighbourhood; and further, that this Park had changed its name before the time of Henry VI.

"A Deed of Ranulph, the sixth and last Earl, who lived a century before that reign, shows what the new name was. He grants** to Stephen de Segrave certain lands in Cotes, '*de clausurâ parci sui de Querndon.*'

"In 1240, four years after the Earl's death, the same name (*Querndon*) was applied to

* Nichols doubts the attainder.—(See *East Goscote*, p. 64, note.)

† So given twice in Nichols.—(*Vol. I.*, p. 62, and *Vol. III.*, Appendix, p. 9.)—It is perhaps a misprint for vinarium.

‡ Nichols, Vol. III., p. 120, from the Chartulary of Lires.

§ Nichols, Vol. III., p. 120.

|| Nichols, Vol. III., p. 830, col. 2.

¶ Ib., p. 822.

** Nichols, Vol. II., Appendix, p. 114.

the Park, as the reader will remember, in the dispute respecting the wood of Challenge, detailed in page 16. An ancient Inquisition respecting the parish of Barrow speaks the same language. It makes the boundary commence ‘*ad radum sub parco de Querndon.*’* This last-named document not only mentions the Park by its new name, but fixes its locality; for *Park-ford* is still known as the place where Swithland and Woodhouse meet, at the west corner of Buddon Wood.

“There is one fact which, at first sight, seems to militate against my theory. It appears† that Ralph Basset, who inherited one-fourth of the possessions of the Earls of Chester in this parish, died in 1343, ‘seised of a certain Park at Barrow.’ But another document connects the Basset property in this parish with Buddon Wood,‡ and thus confirms the identity of Barrow Park with Quorndon Park, which (as has been just noticed) adjoined that wood.

“But, it may be asked, how could a Park on the west of the Soar be at any time called *Barrow Park*? Probably, because it was inclosed before any hamlets existed in the parish. We know that the Earls of Chester possessed Barrow previous to the compilation of Domesday Book, in which no one of the three is mentioned.

“The subsequent name, *Quorndon Park*, may be explained on the same ground. We have distinct evidence that it was situate near Park-ford, in a part of the parish now called Woodhouse. But at the time it was named, no such village as Woodhouse was in existence. That word first occurs in 1220,§ nearly a century after Quorndon was so considerable a place as to have its own Church; and it can be proved that, long after Woodhouse did acquire a distinct appellation, it was not unfrequently comprehended under the general designation of Quorndon. Ranulph, Earl of Chester and Lincoln, the possessor of Woodhouse as well as of Quorndon, between 1216 and 1232, granted a small portion of his wood of Alderman’s Haw, ‘ubi homines sui de Querndon habent communem pasturam.’¶ The expression in this case is the more extraordinary, because the inhabitants of Woodhouse, living so much nearer to Alderman’s Haw, would derive more benefit from the right of common than those of Quorndon (properly so called) could do. A century and a half afterwards, in 1379, John de Farnham is stated to have ‘founded, at Quorndon, a Chantry,’ which proved, in 1548, to be situate in the hamlet of Woodhouse.’¶¶

The two townships were, till a considerably later date, united; for the inhabitants of Woodhouse were, till about 1620, obliged to bury at Quorndon;*** and they, only a few years ago, agreed each to maintain their own poor.

“As to the *Curia Comitilis*, it is less easy,” continues Mr. Babington, “to show what it was not, than what it was. That it was not a Manor House, is, I think, clear, from the tithes of it having been granted to the Monks of St. Severus, which would in that case have been *ἐκῶρον ἀκῶρον*. If it had any connection whatever with the residence of the Earl, perhaps it was that part of Mountsorrel (Mountsorrel Burg) which was ‘*intra curiam castris,*’

* Nichols, Vol. III., p. 61. † Nichols, Vol. III., p. 63.

‡ 10 Rich. II., Radulphus Basset tenet manerium de Barrow super Soare cum Buddon.—Nichols, Vol. I., p. 126.

§ Nichols, Vol. I., p. 58.

¶ Nichols, Vol. II., Appendix, p. 117.

¶¶ Nichols, Vol. III., p. 95, 96.

*** Nichols, Vol. III., p. 111.

for I find that the parts *extra curiam castrî* were granted by the last Earl of Chester to Stephen de Segrave: I say *perhaps*, both because it is by no means certain that the name '*Curia Comitîs*' was not applied before the Castle of Mountsorrel was built, and because there is nothing to show whether the bailiwick of the Castle of Mountsorrel was so large as to have made the tithes of it worth the notice of the Monks. But as the word *curia*, in legal documents, has (according to Sir Henry Spelman) another interpretation, and one wholly unconnected with any building, I think that this is probably its meaning in the present case.

"It appears from the dissertation on Domesday Book, that the *dominicium* (domain) was often found greatly too extensive for occupation by the Lord, as well as inconvenient, from being dispersed over distant parts of the parish. In process of time, therefore, as we are informed, the Nobles, being more attached to war than to agriculture, let off the outlying portions of this *dominicium*, often the greater part of it, to husbandmen, who paid their rents principally, if not wholly, in provisions. That this took place in Barrow is probable, from the great extent of the *dominicium*, which comprised nearly one-third of this overgrown parish. May not the *Curia Comitîs*, then, have been the portion not so let off in 1220 (for that is the date of the deed)?—in which case it would answer to Sir H. Spelman's second interpretation of the word, and be equivalent to a manor within a manor. And may not this have been the origin of one of the manors co-existing for so long a time within this parish?"*

The "Erdington *Manor*, in Barrow," extended also to Quorndon and Woodhouse; † which probably accounts for the strange anomaly of Simon de Liz being recognized as superior Lord by Robert Bossu. ‡ I do not find it distinctly stated that Robert Bossu held under de Liz: but in 1346, other persons held lands in Quorndon and Woodhouse, "as parcel of the fee of *Huntingdon*." And as de Liz was Earl of Huntingdon, as well as of Northampton, Robert Bossu probably held some part of his property under him, though the bulk of it was of the fee of Chester.

The Hastings manor perhaps originated as mentioned in the note. The probable cause of this division of manors was explained in a preceding chapter.

In 1311, Mabel de Sully (see page 12) died seised of one quarter of the manor, held of the King *in capite*, as of the honour of Chester.

In 1316, Raymund de Sully, son of Mabel, died seised of the same, held by service of a quarter of a Knight's fee.

It is evident, from the Segrave Chartulary, that Hugo le Despenser had possessions in Barrow, as he gave to Stephen de Segrave, in marriage with his sister Roesia, a virgate of

* The fees of Hugh Cantor and of Blundel are mentioned in the passage under consideration; and another fee, that of Boteler, is named together with them in the Rentale of Leicester Abbey, fol. 15. In 1235, Henry de Hastings held a Knight's fee in Barrow, under the Earl of Arundel.—(Nichols, Vol. I., p. 49.) Perhaps this is what was afterwards called the Hastings Manor, for that noble family did not obtain the Erdington Manor till 1461; so that Nichols is probably incorrect in saying (Vol. III., p. 69) that it is in right of Erdington Manor that the Earl of Huntingdon was described, in the Inclosure Act of 1776, as Lord of the Manor of Barrow. There seems to have been more than one manor in Barrow in very early times: for in 1346, parts of Barrow, Quorndon, and Woodhouse, were in the fee of Huntingdon (p. 63), though the larger share of it then was, and always had been, in the fee of Chester.

† Nichols, Vol. III., p. 69.

‡ Nichols, Vol. I., p. 27.

land in Barrow : and a Deed, by which Gilbert Cat engages to pay to the said Stephen and his heirs an annual rent of 2s., which he held under Roger de Memelavain.*

This possession was, perhaps, Cat Hill, in Charley, and the lands adjoining.

In 1340, Henry de Beaumont, then Earl of Buchan, was found to have died seised of the hamlet of Barrow, as a member of Loughborough.

In 1343, Ralph Basset, of Drayton, died seised of a certain Park at Barrow, and £4. 16s. rents of the naifs and cottagers : all of which he held of Lord Edward, Earl of Chester (the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III.), by the service of a quarter of a Knight's fee.

In 1346, Giles de Erdington, on the aid then granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock, the King's eldest son, was assessed 20s. for half a Knight's fee, in Barrow, Quorndon, and Woodhonse, parcel of the fees of Chester and Huntingdon.†

In 1375, Sir Giles de Erdington, Knight, died seised of the manor of Barrow, leaving a son and heir, Sir Thomas Erdington, who (probably from the proximity of Barrow to Segrave) formed a matrimonial alliance with Margaret, daughter of Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, who in her own right succeeded to the title of Countess on her father's death. This lady had before been twice married ; first to Sir Walter Manny, and secondly to John Lord Segrave, who dying in 1355, left her a widow with an only daughter Elizabeth —mother to Thomas Lord Mowbray, Earl Marshal and Duke of Norfolk.

In 1390, Sir Ralph Basset, of Drayton, Knt.,‡ died seised of the manor, with the appurtenances, held of the King *in capite* by Knight's service.

In 1394 occurs an inquisition of a somewhat singular character, by which it was found that, on the death of Sir Thomas de Erdington, William le Walshe, Rector of Upton, and Thomas Wilde, Capellan, had formerly assigned to Giles de Erdington, father of Sir Thomas, for the term of his life, the manor of Barrow-upon-Soar, and the view of frankpledge therein : that the said manor was held *in capite* by the service of a quarter of a Knight's fee : and that Thomas, son of the said Thomas and Margaret his wife, Countess (afterwards Duchess) of Norfolk, was next heir of the said Thomas.

The obscurity occurring here is the want of all proof of the right by which le Walshe and Wilde could grant the manor. The most reasonable supposition seems to be, that they were Trustees.

In 1404, it was found that Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, widow of Thomas de Erdington, Knight, died seised of the manor. Her son then succeeded to his father's moiety : and, on the death of his relation, Raymond de Sully, to the other portion too.

* Nichols, Vol. II., Appendix, p. 113.

† Rot. Aux., 20 Edw. III.

‡ It has been before stated (p. 12) that Margaret, daughter of Roger de Somery, and *Nichola d'Albini*, married Ralph Basset : Burke (Extinct Peerage) makes Margaret the daughter of Roger's *second* wife, Annabel, widow of Gilbert Segrave, though he owns that the four daughters of the *first* marriage inherited their mother's estates. It may seem to favour Burke's former statement, that Nicholas de Segrave held a share of the Manor of Barrow : but it should be remarked, that he is distinctly stated to have held it, not in his own right, but in that of *his wife Alice*. It does not appear from the Segrave Pedigree, either in Nichols or in Burke, whose daughter Alice was : nor is even her Christian name given by either : but as John Le Strange is the only one of the husbands of the four heiresses of Roger de Somery, whose name does not appear as a possessor of a share of the Manor of Barrow, it may be conjectured that this Alice was his daughter.

“The manor,” it is plain in the above extracts, generally means only a part of it—most commonly one-fourth.

In a book of fifteenths and tenths, granted by the Laity in 1416, Barrow was rated at £6. 16s. Beaumont fee, de Priore hospitalis S. Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia (Beaumanor?) at 6s. 8d.

In 1427, Elizabeth, widow of Henry de Beaumont, died seised of the manor of Barrow, as a member of Beaumanor.

In 1433, Thomas de Erdington, Esq., died seised of the manor, held of the King by the service of a quarter of a Knight’s fee.

In 1439, Beatrix, wife of Sir Hugh Shirley, held that part of the manor (one-third) that had formerly belonged to Sir Ralph Basset, of Drayton.—(See page 12.)

In 1461, the last Sir Thomas Erdington enfeoffed Sir Richard Neele, of Prestwold, in this manor: and in default of issue, remainder to go to William, Lord Hastings.

On the attainder of William Viscount Beaumont, in 1463, Edward IV. granted part of his possessions in Barrow to Lord Hastings, his Chamberlain: and in 1467, the other part of the Viscount Beaumont’s lands; to be held by homage only, in lieu of all service.—(*Pat. 7 Edward IV.*)

On the attainder of Lord Hastings, June, 1483, the lordship, with all his other immense estates, reverted to the Crown; all of these, however, on the accession of Henry VII., in consideration of the last Lord’s services, were restored, Nov. 22, 1485, to his son, Sir Edward Hastings, father of George, first Earl of Huntingdon of that name, who died lord thereof in 1534, as did his son Francis, the second Earl, in 1561: and two grandsons—Francis, the third Earl, Dec. 14, 1595, and George, the fourth Earl, Dec. 30, 1604; at which period the manor is stated to have been of the annual value of £66. 13s. 9½d., held of the King, as of the fee of Chester, by fealty only; and Francis, Lord Hastings, his son and heir being then dead, Henry, Earl of Huntingdon (then aged eighteen years, six months), was his grandson and heir. He held also the manor of Loughborough, worth £133. 6s. 8d., with Ashby, &c., &c., &c.

The Barnards, Brahams, Caves, Babingtons, Marshalls, Beaumonts, Beveridges, Farnhams, &c., were all families of opulence or distinction once located here. Of their posterity, there is not more than one now resident in the village.

By the marriage of a Braham with a Cave, considerable possessions at Barrow passed into the latter family, and from Theophilus Cave to his nephew, Dr. Humphrey Babington, a younger branch of the Babingtons of Rothley Temple. The Marquis of Hastings still has the manor, but the soil, 2550 acres, inclosed in 1776, belongs chiefly to various opulent farmers—to the Vicarage—and to charitable Institutions.

THE CHURCH.

Barrow, in the ecclesiastical division of the county, is part of the Deanery of Ackley.* The Church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is an ancient and a somewhat singular struc-

* The origin of the name of this Deanery is very obscure. An attempt to explain it will be found under Sheepshed.

ture; it is built in the form of a cross. The tower, surmounted with very beautiful pinnacles, when viewed from a point from which the Quorn woods form its back-ground, has a very fine effect.

In the reign of King Stephen, Ranulph de Geroniis, Earl of Chester, gave the Church of Barrow, with the Chapel of Querndon belonging to it, with one carucate of the demesne lands, to the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, at Leicester, *ad proprios usus*: which grant Hugh Cvelioe, the succeeding Earl of Chester, as well as King Henry II.,* confirmed.

The Benedictine Abbey of St. Severus, in Normandy, founded by Severus, Bishop of Avranches, in 558, and re-founded by Hugo, Viscount Avranches, afterwards Earl of Chester, had evidently part of the tithes arising from Barrow (the gift, doubtless, of one of the ancient Earls of Chester); as William de Albini, Earl of Arundel, in conferring on the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis the great and small tithes of Barrow, made a special exception of those due to the Monks of St. Severus; which, however, the Abbot and Convent afterwards purchased.

The Matriculus of 1220 shows that the then Vicar, William, received the moiety of all the profits of the altar, and a third part of all the corn-tithes, and was bound to serve the Church and sustain all episcopal and archidiaconal payments. The Chapel of Querndon was also to be served thrice a week from the mother Church.

The Monks of St. Severus received, from old time, one-third of the tithes of blades and demesne lands of the Earl of Chester, in Barrow, with all the small tithes arising from the Earl's *Curia*, or Court ("de Curia Comitum"). They had also two parts of the blades from William Blundel's and Hugh Cantor's lands, and from the new inclosures (*novis bundis*) of the Earl in Barrow. Also the whole tithes of corn from the cleared ground of Mountsorrel, from which they only ought to receive a third part. They also received the whole tithe of corn, and all the small tithes at Woodhouse, except the oblations on holy days, Peter-pence and wax-shot (*ceragium*).†

Charyte's "Rentale" describes at great length what portions of tithe and other proceeds belonged to the Abbey of Leicester, and what to the Vicar of Barrow. The ancient names of the woods in this parish, from which the Abbot took tithe, are given in a note.‡

At the Dissolution, a portion of the Rectory belonged to Langley Nunnery. In 1599, a part of the tithes was in the Crown. In 1609, Sir William Herrick purchased it, and the impropriation was his property in 1642: the glebe and tithes belonging to Theophilus Cave, Esq. Henry Farnham, Esq., of Nether Hall, Querndon, possessed the advowson in 1661.

The land set apart at the inclosure in lieu of the great tithes is now partly the property of the Trustees of Barrow Hospital (to whom the tithes were left by Mr. Cave), and partly of the Vicar. The value of the living was greatly augmented by Dr. Beveridge, Bishop of

* Cart. 14 Edward III., N. 17, Co. Leic. Inspecimus.

† See Nichols' East Goscote, page 71.

‡ Nomina locorum et boscorum in Parochia de Baroo ubi abbas Leic' debet habere decimam. In Buddenwode, in Mapulwell, in Brakkley-kar, in medietate Parci de Bellomont, Ferynwode, Lowsikar, Phylpwode, Barolawnde, Manyclefe, Wyllynghawe et Dryhyrst, Clossefeld juxta Bewmaner, boscum de Querndon vocatum Farnamwode, Bewmaner-lawnde, Calvercroft, Wellawmedewe, Fawkeneyr-hey, Mukkelynge et Thorpelande, Woleyswode, Holy Well, Aldurmanhey, ye Launde, Heyrdmanhaueliffe et multa alia—Sowthewode, Danswode, Schepeywode, Turnelleys. New close, Buk hyll et in aliis locis diversis sicut patet in rotulis Celariorum.—*Rentale*, fol. 16.

St Asaph, a native, and long a resident of the place. The patronage is now in St. John's College, Cambridge. Few Churches can boast of such a succession of distinguished Vicars. The present Incumbent is the Rev. Richard Gwatin, B. D.

There were, in Burton's time, the following arms:—ENGLAND. William de Albini, Earl of Arundel; Erdington, and De Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk.

The monuments and monumental inscriptions are unusually numerous and curious. The earliest is one with the following inscription:—

Hic jacet Walterus filius Thomæ Erdington, militis, qui obiit 1430.

In the Chancel floor, on a slab of alabaster, is the figure of a man between two wives—his hands elevated in prayer; and below them are those of *eighteen* children. This monument is inscribed—

Hic jacet Will'm's. Barnard de Barrow sup=Soore, et Johanna et Alicia uxores ej'. Qui Will'm's reddidit Deo Marti 26. die, Anno Dom: 1550°. et Johanna obiit 26 Feb=ruarii Anno Dom: 1537°: quor' a' t' ab's propitiet' Deus.—Amen.

| VICARS. | PATRONS. |
|--|---|
| William, 1220 | } Prior and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, at Leicester. |
| William de Hungerton, 1228 | |
| Thomas de Creke, 1235 | |
| Philip de 1240 | |
| William de Summerdeby, 1265 | |
| Simon de Lecheheld, 1267 | |
| William Gillote, 1534 | |
| William Rustat, 1563; buried 1588. | |
| John Beveridge, D. D., signs Vicar 1617.* | |
| William Beveridge, B. D., Oct. 24, 1620; buried 1640 | John Beveridge, D. D. |
| Anthony Beridge, M. A., 1640 | Henry Farnham, Esq. |
| John Beveridge, M. A., 1661 | The Beveridge family. |
| John Beveridge, 1688-9; buried 1695 | |
| John Richardson, 1695-6 | } William Beveridge, D. D. |
| Benjamin Bewicke, 1701; died 1730 | |
| Vere Foster, B. D. 1730; died 1756 | } St. John's College, Cambridge. |
| William Burrow, B. D. 1757; died 1794 | |
| William Easton, B. D., 1794 | |
| Richard Gwatin, B. D. 1832 | |

THE HOSPITAL.

One of the noblest village charities in the county is the Hospital at Barrow. It has, however, like many other charitable foundations, been attended with one result which its beneficent founder probably did not calculate upon. The advantages it offers increased,

* He must have been presented before, or else a vacancy had occurred.

under the old Poor-law, the number of settlements. The tables of benefactions in the Church give the following account of the foundation :—

“ Humphrey Babington Clerk, D.D., by his will, dated the 17th of August, 1686, for the glory of God, and that the name of his dear uncle, Theophilus Cave, deceased, and that the name and memory of his ancestors might be preserved in Barrow, did give and devise his estate in Barrow, Quorndon, and Mountsorrel, to six Trustees (being neighbouring gentlemen and divines), and their heirs, in trust, out of the rents thereof to erect in Barrow an Almshouse for six poor men, who should be called ‘*The Beadsmen of Theophilus Cave,*’ and should have £8. a year for ever (to be paid weekly) for their maintenance; which beadsmen should be all of them inhabitants of long continuance in Barrow and Quorndon—either widowers or ancient bachelors—whereof five should be chosen out of Barrow, and but one out of Quorndon, unless great need be. Each beadsmen, on his admittance, to have a gown of blue cloth, faced with white, and to have a load of coals yearly.”

The Testator also directed three commemoration sermons to be preached yearly in the Church of Barrow, viz. :—two on Trinity Sunday, and the other on the last Sunday of October. The preacher to receive 20s. on each day of those two days, and 30s. to be given to the poor; and 20s. laid out in Bibles, with the liturgy, and given to such poor children of the place as could read. The words, “The Gift of Theophilus Cave, Esq.,” to be impressed in gold letters on the covers.

The endowment of a Hospital for bachelors and ancient widowers, and to perpetuate the memory of the founder’s relative, and not his own, is, perhaps, an unparalleled circumstance.

The rents belonging to this excellent Charity having, about thirty years ago, greatly increased, and the allowance to the inmates having, in consequence, become proportionably liberal, some of the beadsmen were much tempted to intemperance. To prevent this, the Trustees, after a decree in Chancery, determined, out of their surplus funds, to erect an additional Hospital for aged women.

In 1825, therefore, another handsome Almshouse was completed; and, had its situation been as judiciously chosen as the design, the building would have been a great ornament to the neighbourhood as well as to the village.

Another charitable foundation is the Free Grammar School—erected by the will of the Rev. Humphrey Perkins—who gave the reversion of a farm at Ratcliff-upon-Trent for its endowment.

In endeavouring to discover any ancient tumulus from which Barrow might originally have taken its name,* I learnt, from an old lime-burner, that he remembers a large heap of earth on the north side of the village, called “the Round Hill,” which was removed, fifty-three years ago, to fill up the hollows caused by the lime-pits. This does not seem an unlikely circumstance.

There is still in a field adjoining the road to Bnrton, and exactly opposite to the bridle-road leading to Walton, a somewhat curious circular mound, evidently raised by art—as the

* A more satisfactory reason for this name will be found under Woodhouse.

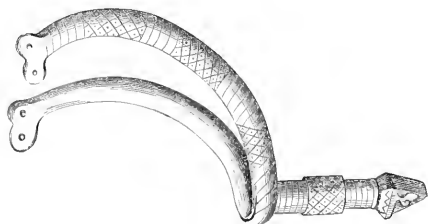
removal of the surrounding earth plainly shows—but I dare not venture to pronounce, in a locality in which the surface has undergone so much disturbance, that it has any claim to be considered an ancient barrow.

The singular and valuable property of the Barrow lime, which hardens under water, and the wonderful fossil remains discovered here, will be found better described in the Geology than by any thing I can say. Mr. Lee, of this place, has a collection of nearly all the varieties, which he at all times most obligingly shows to any respectable person. There are some specimens found here not yet discovered, I believe, in other lias formations; I regret my inability to procure a complete list. The saurians are frequently found.

The Rev. Robert Gutch, of Segrave, favoured me with the following communication respecting a very valuable ichthyosaurus discovered at Barrow :—“ I had the pleasure, some years ago, through the kindness of Mr. Bradshaw, of presenting Dr Buckland, among other fossil remains collected from our own as well as the Barrow lias, with a specimen of a small ichthyosaurus, about five feet long, wanting the greater part of both extremities. I cannot describe it to you better than in the words in which the Professor was pleased to acknowledge the receipt of it. ‘ I have now to thank you for your magnificent present to our Museum of an extremely fine ichthyosaurus, more perfect in its display of the bones of the sternum than any specimen I have ever seen; and which I hope to disengage from much of the stone in which it is now embedded.’—He did so, and afterwards delivered some public Lectures upon it, having, in his microscopic examinations of it, made, for the first time, the important discovery of the skin of this remarkable fossil. Of this he has given an accurate description in page 22, Vol. II., of his Bridgewater Treatise, with drawings of the same in plate 10 of the same volume.”

It only remains for me to mention the magnificent Forest views which the Cliff and all the western eminences of this place afford. Observed, as they should be, in shine and storm—in all the varying phases of the day and the year—they will be allowed inferior to a great part of the lake scenery, inasmuch only as the Soar is inferior to Windermere.

It may be added, that if Barrow *Proper* ever did contain a Baronial mansion, its site was doubtless on Cliff Hill.



MOUNTSORREL.

(*Mount-soare hill, Mountsoril, Ministcell,* Mount Sorrell.*)

Jam ad Soarum flumen regredimur, qui Leicestriam præterlapsus, primùm *Montsorell*, sive potius *Mount-soare-hill*, ex Normannicâ et Anglicâ compositione, nomen præbet * * * Nunc tantum mercatu celebre est; olim verò celeberrimum Castro in prærupto et confragoso colle flumini impendenti, quod priùs ad Comitem, bello Baronico, spectavit; hodièque nihil est nisi rudetum.—*Camden.*

Mountsorrel North (anciently called Mountsorrel Burgh) is, parochially, an appendant to Barrow: and on this account, as well as on account of its being, geologically speaking, one of the outworks of the Forest, is of too great importance to be passed over without remark.

The stately Castle which once crowned the remarkable steep, still called Castle Hill, is what chiefly calls for notice in Mountsorrel. This Castle, Nichols conjectures, was built by Hugh Lupus—consequently about 1080—and the first mention of it is in Articles of Agreement, made in the reign of Stephen, between Ranulph de Geroniis (great nephew of the founder) and Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, whose extensive possessions in this neighbourhood were respectively bounded at this place by a lane, now called Barn Lane, but anciently, no doubt, Baron Lane.† By this agreement, made in the presence of Robert de Chesney, Bishop of Lincoln, Earl Ranulph gave to the Earl of Leicester and his heirs the Castle of Mountsorrel, to be holden of the said Ranulph and his heirs in such sort that the Earl of Leicester should be bound to receive the said Ranulph and his family in the borough and bailiwick of Mountsorrel, to war, whenever he listeth, as of his own fee; and, if needful for Earl Ranulph, his body to be received into the Castle, in such sort that the Earl of Leicester should bear unto him faith (always the faith due to his liege lord excepted); and if it be behooful that the Earl of Leicester go against the Earl of Chester with his liege lord, not to carry with him above twenty Knights; and if the Earl of Leicester, or those twenty Knights, shall take any part of the Earl of Chester's goods, it shall be restored again. And the Earl of Leicester may not, in any case ympeach or hinder the body of the Earl of Chester, except he hath defied him fifteen days before; and the Earl of Leicester is bound to aid the Earl of Chester against all men, except the said Earl of Leicester's liege lord and Earl Simon."‡

A passage of greater interest, as showing the immense power of the English nobility at the period to which the agreement refers, could hardly be found. Nichols (*Vol. I., p. 27*) gives the document at greater length, and states several reasons for fixing the date at 1151.

In those days, when military achievements and the sports of the chace were the chief resources of the nobility, this Castle must have been highly esteemed, both from its natural

* So given in Burton's extract from a Roll of Henry III.

† Baron Park, in Leicester Forest, for a long time underwent precisely the same corruption. An engraving of an ancient cross, that stood in this lane, will be found further on, in page 70.

‡ Nichols, Vol. I., p. 27, says (in a note) "Simon de St. Lis, the first Earl of Northampton of that name."

The liege lord of the Earl of Leicester appears, by the document, to have been Robert, Earl of Ferrars.

strength, and from its contiguity to the Forest. But as Robert Bossu advanced in age, he spent a considerable part of his time in the foundation of the Abbeys of Leicester and Garendon; and at length the Castle and chace lost all their charms. For the last fifteen years of his life he made Leicester his chief residence, having become a Canon Regular of that Abbey in 1152.—(*Nichols, Vol. I., p. 357.*)—There he died, in 1167.

During these years, the Castle of Mountsorrel was, no doubt, virtually in possession of his son, Robert Blachmaines, who, after his father's death, rebelling against King Henry II., and being taken prisoner, was forced, in 1174, to surrender this and all his other Castles into the King's hands.* He was, however, restored to favour at the Great Council held at Northampton in the following year, and reinstated in all his possessions except this. This the King alleged to be his own lawful right, and retained it—probably from a desire to have in his own hands a fortress of such consequence.

It does not appear that it was restored to his son, Robert Fitz Parnell, high as he was in the estimation of the next Monarch (Richard I.): accompanying him to the Holy Land, and greatly distinguishing himself at Ascalon. Indeed, after the death of Blanchmaines, Saër de Quincy, who married his sister and co-heiress, obtained, for the consideration of £1000., a Grant from the King of the custody of the lands of the said Robert; this Castle, with its appurtenances, being excepted, as being then in the King's hands. In 1215, one of the most eventful periods of English History, King John appointed Saër de Quincy Governor of it. On Saër's taking part with the Barons, the King granted the custody to Simon de Cantelupe the same year.† It does not, however, appear that the latter ever obtained actual possession, as de Quincy strongly garrisoned it, and held it on behalf of Lewis, the French King (whom the Barons had called to their assistance), till the King's death. It was during the time of this garrison's occupation of the Castle, that the officers and soldiers made those marauding incursions into the adjacent country, that earned for the Castle the remarkable designation given it in Camden—"nidum Diaboli speluncam latronum."

To check the terrible outrages committed by the officers and soldiers of this garrison, of which the whole peasantry made heart-rending complaints, the Royalists in the Castle of Nottingham determined to sally out against them. Falling in with a band of these lawless depredators in the midst of one of their pillaging excursions, they routed and dispersed them, returning victorious to Nottingham with several of the leaders prisoners.

Henry III., hearing of this act of gallantry against his bitterest enemies, gave it in command to the High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire to gather the forces of that county, and with the garrison of Nottingham to besiege and demolish the Castle of Mountsorrel. Matthew Paris (see Appendix) gives a very interesting account of this siege, which he says took place after Easter, 1217. The Castle was at that time defended by Henry de Braibroc,‡ or

* Nichols, Vol. I., p. 358, asserts that "his Castles of Leicester, Groby, and Mountsorrel, were demolished between 1173 and 1177." This mistake is the more singular, as he had, in page 77 of the same volume, correctly said, that "though the two former were demolished in 1173, the King retained the Castle of Mountsorrel as his own property; it having been shown to be his by the recognition of lawful men of the vicinage."

† Rot. 17, Joh. m. 3.

‡ Nichols says Robert.

Braybroke, with ten most valiant Knights (*milites strenuissimi*) and a great number of retainers. The leaders of the besieging party were William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke (then Governor to the infant King), Ranulph de Blondeville, Earl of Chester, William de Ferraris, Earl of Derby, William, Earl of Albemarle, Brienne de Lisle (*de Insulâ*), William de Cantelupe, Philip Marc, Robert de Gangi, and many others from the garrisons of the neighbouring Castles. The siege was evidently very vigorously undertaken. Warlike engines were placed by the Royalists on the neighbouring heights (*in locis congruis*), now called Broad Hill; and it is evident, from the account given by Matthew Paris, that the chief mode of attack was by machines somewhat resembling the balista. Describing the besieged, he says, "they manfully hurled back stones for stones, javelin for javelin on their assailants." The siege had continued for some days with a spirit equal to the importance of the fortress, and provisions in the garrison beginning to fail, de Brailbroc sent to Saër de Quincy, at that time at London, begging for immediate assistance. De Quincy, without loss of time, applied to Lewis the Dauphin, who had just arrived in London. The latter, without delay, despatched the Count de Perche, with twenty thousand men, to the relief of Mountsorrel, "aware of the consequences that would follow the surrender of a place on which the eyes of the neutral Barons were fixed."

It is singular that Nichols should have described the Count's forces as having been met at Lincoln by King Henry's army, and defeated *in their way to Mountsorrel*.* The Count, according to Matthew Paris, approached so near to the latter place as to induce Ranulph de Blondeville to abandon the siege, and to join the Earl Mareschal, at Nottingham. After the Royalists' victory over the Barons and the French, at Lincoln, in which de Blondeville greatly distinguished himself, Mountsorrel fell into the King's hands, and the government of the Castle was conferred on that brave Earl, who was also rewarded by the Earldom of Lincoln. He had not, however, held the governorship a year, and probably was never in actual possession of it, when, by the command of the King, and by the willing aid of the neighbourhood, he entirely razed it to the ground,† as a "nest of the devil, and a den of thieves and robbers." It may not be considered irrelevant to my subject, to introduce a short sketch of this distinguished man, who seems to have taken such peculiar pleasure in the destruction of the Castle erected by his ancestor:—

He was surnamed de Blondeville, from the circumstance of his having been born at the White Monastery, in Powis-land. He assumed the cross, and marched *twice* to the Holy Land,‡ where he made many displays of his undaunted valour. An incident related of his conduct, on his voyage home, is an amusing characteristic of the superstition of the times:— During a dreadful storm, being requested by the master and crew to lend his aid for their common preservation, he told them to continue their labours until midnight, when, if the tempest should not abate, he would assist them, but he would do nothing till that time.

* See East Goscote, page 85.

† Camden, as quoted by Nichols, Vol. III., p. 86, gives the same date for the destruction of the Castle. But in a former Volume (I. 363) Nichols had erroneously stated the final demolition to have been effected about 1265; shortly before which time, he says, it had been repaired and put into a posture of defence.

‡ So says Burke.

The storm increased—midnight arrived—and the master of the vessel called upon him to join in prayer with him and the crew for the salvation of their souls; for all hope of safety in this world was at an end. “Not so,” replied de Blondville; “for know ye, the hundreds of holy Monks and Nuns, established and endowed by my forefathers and myself, in different parts of my possessions in England, are at this hour of midnight rising to sing divine service. I put confidence in their unity of prayer, and already feel my strength increased.” With that he took an oar in his hand, and called upon the crew with words of encouragement. Their energy prevailed, and ere morning broke the tempest had subsided and they found themselves in a friendly port.*

On his return to his native land he opposed the arbitrary power of Hubert de Burgh; and notwithstanding his superstition, resolutely refused to permit the Pope’s commissaries to levy their demands within the compass of his jurisdiction. He died at Wallingford, in 1232, after having governed the Palatinate of Chester for more than fifty years.

It is related, to the credit of his strenuous opponent and bitterest enemy, Hubert de Burgh, that when the tidings of the Earl’s death were brought him, by one who expected to rejoice him by the intelligence, he sighed deeply, and exclaimed, “God have mercy on his soul!” and being then fasting, he called for his psalter, knelt before the crucifix, and sang the whole through, without intermission, for the repose of the soul of his departed foe!

Ranulph has still further claim to notice, as a character of high historical interest. His first wife was Constance, of Bretagne, whom Shakspeare has immortalized as an example of maternal sensibility aroused in the defence of the rights of her injured son. It seems somewhat irreconcilable with our ideas of this Constance, that she should have given cause to her second husband, Ranulph, to abandon her, as the Chronicles of Evesham say he did, “by reason that King John haunted her company.”† It seems scarcely credible that such a mother should encourage the usurper of her son’s rights, her licentious brother-in-law, “to haunt her company;” and the improbability is increased, when we find that it was “by John’s advice and example” that the Earl divorced her and married Clementia, the youthful widow of Alan de Dinant, with whom he obtained great possessions both in England and France.

Constance, immediately after her divorce, married the chivalric Guy de Thouars, and died in child-birth within a year afterwards.‡ Ranulph left no issue, and his nephew and successor in the Earldom of Leicester, John the Scot, died too without issue: having been poisoned by his wife, Helena, the daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales. The Earldom of Chester was then annexed to the Crown, on the plea *ne tam præclara dominatio inter colos feminarum dividi contingeret*—an allusion to the posterity of two of Ranulph’s other sisters.§

* Noble, in Glover’s Derbyshire. † So also says Dugdale, quoted by Burke.

‡ It is fair to observe, that I am indebted to Mr. Noble, compiler of “Derbyshire,” for part of the foregoing statement.

§ Mabel and Hawise: the latter of whom carried the Earldom of Lincoln to her son-in-law, John de Lacy, Countess of Chester. Her brother, it should be stated, had obtained this manor from Henry III., and a little before his death gave it to Hawise, wife of Robert de Quincy, by Charter—“that she might, in right thereof, be styled Countess.”

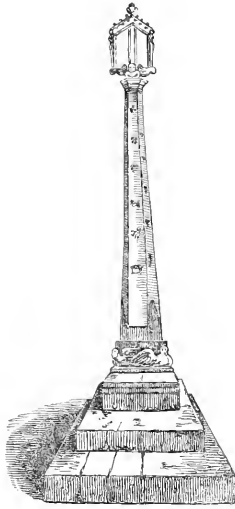
To return to the Castle.—The site of this once strong and commanding fortress is, even after the lapse of upwards of six hundred years, invested with peculiar interest. The visitor will at once perceive that it must, in the days of its glory, have more resembled some fortress that “frowns o’er the deep and foaming Rhine,” than an English Castle. Those of Nottingham, Belvoir, and Peveril-of-the-Peak, were, perhaps, the only Midland Castles that were at all equal to it in situation; and these were certainly inferior to it in security and many other respects. The precipitous rock on which it stood entirely guarded it on three sides; and on the least protected side, from all that can now be traced, the fortifications seem to have been commensurate with its great importance. On Broad Hill, which is situated about four hundred yards to the north-west, and which doubtless was the spot referred to by Matthew Paris, in the expression “*congruis locis*,” are three circular mounds, twenty feet in diameter; four oblong elevations, of forty-two feet long (the latter forming the points of a parallelogram); and some banks or earth-works. Tradition says, the mounds were used by the Royalists at the time of the siege; and the description of the engines made use of, in the old Historian just quoted, renders the supposition a likely one. The works may indeed have been an outpost to the Castle, and certain peculiarities in the plan would perhaps induce some antiquarians to conclude they had a still higher claim to antiquity, viz.: that they were the remains of an ancient British camp.

The prospects both from Broad Hill and Castle Hill are of singular beauty; the meanderings of the Soar, and the rising grounds of Segrave, Sibley, and the Wolds, with the fine old Church towers of the villages named, diversify the eastern side; on the north, the heights of Barrow, the wooded eminences of Quorn, and the town of Loughborough, form a landscape rich in almost every element of fine scenery. On the west, the Forest hills present their bold and beautiful outline, and Bradgate Park figures to great advantage in the south-western distance.

It is greatly to be regretted, that there is extant no representation of this remarkable Norman Castle. Nichols fancies that the seal of Margaret de Quincy, and a painting on glass, in Thurcaston Church, may be intended for it. In the seal, the Countess is represented standing under an embattled gateway of great strength.*

John de Lacy had issue Edmund: who, dying before his mother, left this honour to his son Henry, the last Earl of that family. For having, in her ninth year, betrothed his only surviving child, Alice, to Thomas, son of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, on condition that if they died without heirs of their bodies, his Castles, Lordships, &c., should remain to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, for ever. Alice had no children, and her husband having been beheaded, she brought great reflection on her character by her unchaste behaviour; having first consorted with, and afterwards, without the King’s leave, married Eubulo Le Strange, which provoked the King to seize her estates.—On her death (s. v.), Henry, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Edmund, by his second son, in right of the above-mentioned conveyance, came into possession of this large estate, which from that time was in the House of Lancaster. The Kings of England have, however, conferred the title of Earl of Lincoln on others—Edward IV., on John de la Pole; Henry VIII., on Henry Brandon; and Queen Elizabeth, on Edward Baron Clinton, High Admiral of England: whose descendant, the present Duke of Newcastle, now enjoys it as his second title.—*Gough’s Additions to Camden, Vol. II., p. 233.*

* I have in my possession a halfpenny, or trader’s token, issued by Joseph Lovell, of Mountsorrel, in 1677. It bears on the obverse a round tower, which may possibly have been standing on some part of Castle Hill, at that period. Nichols gives an engraving of the same token.



As some workmen were getting stone from this hill, in 1787, they found several pieces of old coin, and an ancient spur, of cast copper, which had been gilt, as was visible in the engraved strokes of the Mosaic: instead of a rowel it has a pointed knob, and is from this form supposed to be of some antiquity.* As Charnwood Forest was held by the tenure of presenting yearly a pair of gilt spurs to the King, it is not improbable that this identical spur may have been one used in that service.— (*See engraving, p. 64.*)—A winding staircase was a few years ago discovered in the Castle Hill, which apparently had served as a secret outlet. The steps, though hidden by loose stones, Mr. Jackson informs me, still remain.

It should be added, that the Castle and vill of Mountsorrel were, for a considerable time, enjoyed by the Abbot and Monks of Garendon; obtained for them from Ranulph, Earl of Chester, by the influence of Robert Bossu.†

The annexed is an engraving of an ancient cross, formerly standing in Baron Laue, Mountsorrel, but now in Swithland Park.

QUORNDON.

(*Querue, Querndon, Queruedon, Quarendon, Quarrydon, Querindon, Querendon, Querondon, Quorndon, Quorredon, Quoru.*)

The name of this very interesting and somewhat celebrated village would seem to imply its close connexion with the Forest. It is not unlikely that Querue and Cherme were convertible terms. It has already been stated that Quorndon is a hamlet of Barrow: and so much of its history is involved in that of the latter place, that there remains little to be here added.

Though this village is not mentioned in Domesday Book, it must have been built within a few years after that book was compiled, as it possessed a Chapel in the reign of King Stephen.‡ Among the records called "Pedes Finium," in the Chapter House, Westminster (temp. Henry III.), are some deeds relative to this place. In that reign, Sir Robert de Farnham, descended from Robert de Farnham who came over with the Conqueror, and whose name appears in the Roll of Battle Abbey, held considerable possessions here, which are still held by his lineal descendant, Edward Basil Farnham, Esq. M.P.; Hugh Cantator (called also Cantor and le Chantour), in 1235; the Segraves, in 1325; the Despensers, in 1330; and subsequently the Beaumonts, the Erdingtons, the Bassets, the Farnhams; and latterly the Meynells held possessions here.

* Nichols' East Goscote, p. 90.

† See Garendon Chartulary.

‡ Nichols, Vol. III., p. 62.

The Farnhams alone have any resident representative. The ancient seat of this family stood two hundred and fifty yards from the *late* Hall (pulled down by the present Mr. Farnham's father),* near the spot where the entrance lodge of the present mansion is now placed. It was called the Upper or Over Hall. The Nether Hall, now called Quorndon Hall, was, in 1548, the seat of Thomas Farnham, Esq. About 1686, it was purchased by George Morton, Esq. In 1741, it was occupied by Evelyn Chadwick, Esq., grandfather of the late Duchess of Newcastle—in 1750, by Laurence Earl Ferrers, and soon afterwards by Justinian Rainsford, Esq. It was purchased by Hugo Meynell, Esq., in 1758, since which period it has passed with the mastership of the celebrated Hunt, of which the latter gentleman was the founder, to nearly all the succeeding masters.†

Two ancient houses, one now occupied by Mr. Sarson and the other by Mr. Jackson, deserve mention. The former was long the family mansion of the Chaveney's—the latter, that of a junior branch of the Farnham family. There are several other residences of more than ordinary consequence. Those of the Rev. Thomas Burnaby—of the Rev. B. C. Raworth—of Mrs. Stone—of Mr. Harris—the one lately belonging to the ancient family of Hyde, &c., are equal to the Halls and Manor Houses of many villages. In fact, the village has been in recent, as from its proximity to the Forest it probably was in ancient times, the hunting residence of many of the aristocracy.

The Chapel, which is, as has been stated, a dependant of Barrow, and consequently in the gift of the Vicar of the latter place, is a very ancient fabric. Its exterior has lately been greatly improved, by pointing the granite, of which it is built, with black cement. The effect is altogether extremely good. The interior has also been repaired and altered, under the direction of the same able architect.‡ Till these alterations, the fine old fabric, abounding in some of the most remarkable monuments in the county (those of the Farnham family), had its ancient ceiling hidden by the plaster stuccoing of a ball-room, and incongruities of every kind pervaded the whole edifice.§

There is a piscina in the wall of the North Willows, or Farnham Chapel, and near it a singular mutilated statue of John Farnham, who, having early in life greatly signalized himself, in arms, was rewarded for his distinguished services by Queen Elizabeth, with grants of lands, Hospitals, Rectories, &c., in more than *sixty* lordships.

* Nichols, p. 100, col. 1., last paragraph.

† The Meynells derive descent from the Hugh de Grantemaisnell, the companion of the Conqueror, so often mentioned in these pages. Sir Hugh Meynell, who married the heiress of the Lord Robert de la Ward, changed his family arms for those of De la Ward—the same still used by the Meynells of Bradley and Meynell Langley. From the times of Edward I. to those of Henry VI. (and frequently since), there was scarcely a Parliament called in which one of this ancient family did not sit as Member for Derbyshire. Mr. Hugo Meynell, of Hoar Cross, has lately, by Royal License, taken the name and arms of Ingram, in addition to his own.

‡ Mr. Parsons, of Leicester; who, with a fund of £600., raised chiefly by the inhabitants, has thoroughly restored the Chapel, and greatly increased the accommodation.

§ It does not come under my plan to give the monumental inscriptions of the villages noticed: but I cannot help, in some degree, regretting the necessity of this omission. The inscriptions at Quorn and Barrow probably contain as fine specimens of the elegiac poetry of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as could be found in any village Church in the kingdom. One, at least, is the production of Sir John Beaumont.

A Chantry was founded in Quorndon, by Sir John Hamelyn, in 1328; and another, by John de Farnham, in 1379.* Nichols thought that one of these Chantries stood where the Nether Hall now stands.† The words "Prior of Quorndon," occurring in an inquisition on the death of William de Ros, of Hamelake, in 1352, would lead to the impression that one of them had probably been a small Priory—unless, as was supposed by Nichols (*Vol. III., p. 95*), this refers to Alderman's Haw. The Abbot of Leicester also had a tithe barn in Quorndon, long known as "the Abbot's barn."

The ancient Park of Quorndon, which there is every reason to believe was identical with that of Barrow, appears to have been of great extent—reaching from Park Ford to Woodthorpe, and perhaps including much of the south and south-western side of the lordship. Its ancient boundary may still be traced in several places, particularly in an old wall leading from Park Ford, where the Park joined Rothley Plain through Buddon Wood. The elegant seat of Mr. Farnham, M.P., called Quorndon House, erected in 1820, stands in or on the verge of the ancient Park; and probably no residence in the county commands, at once, such a charming contrast of wild and cultivated scenery. Indeed, the walks and rides through "Farnamwode," Buddon Wood, the Coppice, and the modern Park, may, with great propriety, be designated romantic. A scene that presented itself in these woods, in January of the present year, would have suited Salvator Rosa. In the wildest part, surrounded with granite crags, a group of wood-markers had kindled a fire. The snow-covered ground contrasting with the red paint-tubs—the blue smoke, and ten or twelve hardy-looking woodmen, who from their appearance might have been taken for banditti, formed altogether a picture of rare and exquisite effect.

How rich these woods are in plants of more than common interest to botanists, the article on Botany will show.

There is a considerable benefaction to this place, which acquires singularity from the circumstance of the donor's name being wholly unknown. The Table of Benefactions thus records it:—"Several houses, tenements, and buildings, known by the name of TOWN HOUSES, situate in Quorndon, together with several pieces or parcels of ground, estimated at 25 acres, lying in the Lordship, were given in trust, for charitable uses, to the township of Quorndon—the donor's name unknown. The said houses and lands were conveyed by William Herrick, Esq., of Beaumanor, the last surviving Trustee (by a deed bearing date July 11th, 1760), to Hugo Meynell, Thomas Babington, Edward Farnham, and John Hyde, Esqrs.; Samuel Stevens, gent.; the Rev. Richard Hurd,‡ the Rev. George Cardale, D.D.,§ the Rev. William Burrow, the Rev. Moor Scribo; Thomas Squire, John Snappes, Mr. James and Mr. Samuel Sculthorpe, Mr. Thomas Chapman, and John Bradshaw, in trust, to dispose of the rents and profits of the said estate for the uses they had formerly been, which had from immemorial custom been as follows:—To pay the Curate of Quorndon for the time being, £12. *per annum*. The residue of the rents and profits to be laid out in the repairs of bridges and other charities, at the discretion of the Trustees."

* In the Farnham Pedigree (Nichols, Vol. III., p. 103), the date of this foundation is stated to be 1393. An inquisitio ad Quod damnus (16 Ric. II.) gives the same date.—Nichols, Vol. III., p. 105.

† West Gosote, p. 100.

‡ Afterwards Bishop of Worcester.

§ Then Vicar of Rothley.



HANGING STONE near BEAUMARIS.

BEAUMANOR.

(*Beaumannour, Bewmanor, hodie Beau Manor.*)

Saltus de Charnwood sive Charley longè expanditur, in quo Beaumanor vivarium cernitur, quod Domini de Bellomonte, ut accipi, lapideo muro circumsepserunt.—*Camden.*

Riding a little farther I left the Parke of Bewmanor closid with a stone walle and a pratie logge yn it, longging alate to Beaumont.—*Leland, about 1536.*

The assertion of Miss Mitford already quoted, that “every name is a history,” has a peculiar propriety when applied to Beaumanor. Those who never saw the spot, could scarcely fail to infer that such a name could only belong to a place rich either in natural or artificial beauty.—It is so. It is rich, too, in associations with the memories of its occupants; many of whom make no inconsiderable figure in the annals of our country.

So early as the time of the Norman Conqueror, this manor, for it had not then acquired its correctly descriptive prefix, was the property of Hugh Lupus. It was at that period accounted a member of the manor of Loughborough, but subsequently has been considered to be locally situated in the parish of Barrow,* though it has from time immemorial been extra-parochial.

It passed from the Earls of Chester to the Despensers, and in 1239 was the inheritance of Hugh le Despenser, under whom it was held by John le Despenser on the tenure of finding yearly a pair of gilt spurs, of 6*d.* or 7*d.* value, in lieu of all other service.† This Hugh, by his partisanship with Simon de Montford, became involved in all the consequences of that rebellion, and lost his life at the battle of Evesham, in 1265. His lands were shortly after confiscated, but the manor of Loughborough generously conferred, as part of her maintenance, on his widow Aliva, daughter of Philip Basset, of Wycombe—the Grant says, “out of the love the King bare her father.” This is gleaned from an inquisition taken not long after the battle, in which the names of all De Montford’s adherents in this county, and the value of their lands, then seized by the King, are carefully specified. It appears, too, from the list, that “a certain manor called *Bewmanor*,” being in the tenure of John le Despenser (taken prisoner at Kenilworth in the same rebellion), was not restored to Aliva. Her son Hugh, however, was restored to his father’s estates: and in 1321, the Earldom of Winchester, which had become extinct on the death of Roger de Quincy, was revived and conferred upon him. By his marriage with Alianore, daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, he was also advanced to that Earldom, and had a son, also named Hugh.

The fate of these two last-named Hughs is a subject of too great historical notoriety to require any lengthened detail. It may suffice to remind the reader that they were the two favourites of Edward the Second, who fell under the displeasure of his abandoned mother

* So says an extract from Charyte’s Rental of Leicester Abbey, given in Nichols (*Vol. III., p. 136*). But in another extract (*ib. p. 61*), only *half* of Beaumanor Park is claimed to be in Barrow—“Usque ad Alliskar, and sic usque ad angulum parci de Bewmanor, comprehendendo medium parci de Bewmanor.”

† Dugdale Bar. Angl. Vol. II., p. 52.

and the Barons, who were envious of the Court favours so profusely lavished on them, and probably greatly annoyed by the insolence of the younger Despenser. Hugh, the elder, who is represented by most historians as a man of distinguished talents and amiable character, was hanged at Bristol, in 1325, and his light-miuded and arrogant son in the year following, at Hereford.*

By their attainder their estates fell to the Crown, and were speedily conferred on the great founder of one of the most illustrious families that have ever figured in the county—HENRY DE BEAUMONT.

The origin of this distinguished nobleman has often been a subject of dispute amongst genealogists and historians.

It would be tedious, and perhaps presumptuous, to attempt to decide a point on which Burton and several other writers have felt considerable difficulties. A careful examination of the pedigrees and evidences adduced before the House of Lords, on the several occasions when the succession to this ancient barony has been disputed, leads me to the belief that Henry de Beaumont was descended from Lewis, grandson of Lewis IX., of France, and that he was nearly related to Eleanor of Castile, the faithful and heroic wife of our first Edward.

It was probably the proximity of Beaumanor to Whitwick and Charley, that led to his matrimonial alliance with Alice, the heiress of Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan: an alliance which induced the Lord Beaumont, for he was then ennobled, and in right of his wife Earl of Buchan,† to take so active a part in the Scottish invasion. He was present at the fatal battle of Bannockburn.

The first mansion at Beaumanor was erected by this Lord Beaumont, about 1330; he also inclosed the spacious ancient Park, which some writers have erroneously stated to be twenty miles in circumference—evidently mistaking the Park boundaries for those of the neighbouring Forest. He died in 1340, and it was found that he was at that time seised (conjointly with his wife) of the manor of Whitwick, *cum membris*, viz.: Shepesheved, Markfield, Whittington, Roteby, Newton, and Bochaston, held of the King *in capite* by Knight's service—as also of the manor of Loughborough, *cum membris*, viz.: Beaumanor, Burton, Hucklescote, Armesby, Barrow, Cossington, Querndon, Mountsorrell, Wodethorpe, and Kintesthorpe, all in the county; with the Knight's fees and advowsons of Abbeys, Priors, Churches, Chapels, and Religious Houses there. His son and heir, John, was then aged twenty-two.

John, second Lord Beaumont, never used the title of Earl of Buchan. He married Alianore de Lancaster, fifth daughter to Henry, Earl of Lancaster. In 1338, during his father's life, while Baron Beaumont, he was employed in a public expedition to Flanders; and two years afterwards, while the Lady Alianore was attendant on Queen Philippa,

* Nichols says, "In 1330 John de Lisle died seised of this manor, which he held under Hugh le Despenser the younger."—This must be an error; Hugh was executed four years before. Probably it means, which he *had* held under Hugh le Despenser.

† He was summoned to Parliament during twenty successive years of the reign of Edward II.; the Writ being addressed "Henrico de Bellamonte"—and to several Parliaments of Edward III., with the addition of "Comiti de Bughan," or Buchan.

then resident in Brabant, his son Henry was born; and Lord Beaumont, who was not summoned to Parliament before 15 Edward III. (1342),* died the same year, having first obtained the King's special letters patent that his son should be reputed lawful heir, and inherit his lands in England, as if he had been born there.

Henry, the third Baron Beaumont, was only two years old on the death of his father. His legitimacy was ratified by Parliament in 1351. He married Margaret, daughter of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and died in 1370, leaving a son John, the fourth Baron, then in his ninth year.

This Lord was of a truly chivalric character. He accompanied John of Gaunt (then called King of Castile and Leon) into Spain, but was for a time expelled from the Court by the machinations of some persons who were jealous of his influence. Those discontents somewhat abating, he obtained license to pass to Calais, to answer a challenge of four French Knights, to as many English ones, to just with them at tilt and tourney. Knighton says, "he broke a lance with the Lord Chamberlain of France, and comported himself altogether as a brave, true Knight." Being made Admiral of the Northern Fleet, and also Warden of the Marches towards Scotland, he penetrated forty miles into that country, attacked the town of Fowyke, and brought home many prisoners.

In the same year, and probably in compliment to his successful foray into Scotland, he had the honour to receive Richard II. and his Queen at Beaumanor, on their progress to York; and again, in 1390, on their road from Leicester to Nottingham. There is a tradition that in both their visits, one of which was of nine days' duration, the King shared in the pleasures of the chase on Charnwood. This Lord was honoured with the Garter, and, dying in 1397, left three sons:—Henry, who succeeded him, then aged sixteen—Thomas, from whom descended the Cole-Orton branch—and Richard.†

Henry, the fourth Baron Beaumont, received the honour of Knighthood at the Coronation of Henry IV. He was then only nineteen. He was summoned as a Baron to several Parliaments, and died at the age of thirty-two; leaving, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Lord Willoughby D'Eresby, an only son John, aged three years—for whom, as there was no provision made for him, Lady Beaumont obtained from the King an assignment of £40. a year till he arrived at majority.

John, the fifth Baron, was addressed, in the writs of summons to Parliament, "*Johanni Beaumont ChPr.*"‡ He was created Earl of Boulogne, by Letters Patent, dated Canterbury, 27th July, 1436, being at that time on his journey to the relief of Calais: having been retained by indenture to serve the King, with twenty men at arms and eighty-eight archers.

In 1440, in consideration of his merits, and the special services of his ancestors, he was advanced to the dignity of Viscount (being the first person who bore that title in England), with precedency above all Barons of the realm. He had the misfortune, in 1441, to lose his Lady, Elizabeth, daughter of William Phelip, Lord Bardolph; and, "by reason of his continued services," he obtained a grant of the custody of all the castles, manors, and lands,

* Nichols miscalculates this as 1345 (page 138), though he correctly dates his death 1342, in the Beaumont Pedigree (page 66).

† Dugdale's Baronage.

‡ Chl'r.—a contraction for *Chevalier*.

which, by the death of his wife, came to Henry, his son : and in case of his death, to William, his younger son, with remainder to Joan, his daughter, who married John Lord Lovel. John Viscount Beaumont, however, formed a second alliance with Catharine, widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and afterwards wife of Sir John Widvile, Knt., whose sister Elizabeth married Sir John Grey, of Groby, afterwards Lord Ferrars, of Groby. The Duchess had Beaumanor as part of her dowry.—He was slain at the battle of Northampton, 1459.

Henry, the elder son, dying unmarried before his father, William, the younger, succeeded to the family honours and estates, both paternal and maternal, and thus became Viscount Beaumont and Baron Bardolph.

Adhering with great zeal and fidelity to the House of Lancaster, he was taken prisoner in the memorable battle of Towton Field (Palm Sunday, March 29, 1461), and was afterwards attainted in Parliament, and sentenced to forfeit all his titles and estates. He was at that time seised of the manors of Loughborough, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Whitwick, Sheepshed, Donington, Markfield, Ratby, Beaumanor, &c., &c.

The demesnes of Beaumanor, Whitwick, Bochaston, Newtown, Markfield, and Arnesby, were held, for the term of her life, by the Duchess, his mother-in-law : and the reversion of these was conferred by Edward IV. (February 18, 1462), on Sir William Hastings, Knight, and his heirs.

The injustice of this attainder has been strongly commented upon. Le Neve says, “attainted, not for disloyalty, but that he endeavoured to maintain the crown on the head of Henry VI., who had enjoyed the same for forty years, and so had both his father and grandfather, without contempt or impeachment. And this attainder ought not to have been left indefinite, because it is, without expression of the cause, to be taken for disloyalty, none of which lineage were ever stained or tainted therewith, and it is a foul blot in the author to impose such a stain or blemish on him.”

The cruelty and injustice of this attainder have also been feelingly pleaded, and forcibly shown, in the several petitions of Viscount Beaumont and his descendants, for its reversal and their restoration to their dignities—especially in that of Viscount Beaumont : in which he states that he had been “attainted for the true and faithful allegiance and service which he owed unto the most blessed Christian Prince, King Henrie VI., the uncle of King Henrie VII.”

I quote the words of the petition which he presented to Henry VII. soon after the battle of Bosworth Field ; on which, after twenty-five years' injustice, he obtained a reversal of the attainder, as “grounded upon no good foundation or cause warrantable”—and a restoration of all his lands and manors in fee. He was also summoned to Parliament in a writ addressed “Wilhelmo Vicecomiti Beaumont.”

Two years, however, had scarcely elapsed, when, on the plea that Viscount Beaumont was “not of sadness ne discrecion neither to rule and kepe himself nor his said lyselode”—in other words, that he alienated and wasted his estates—a Bill was passed, appointing “the King or his deputies to have the rule of the said lyselode.”

“This measure,” says Nichols, “was confirmed in 1496, and all such grants as *the King*

had made out of the estates were established." Lord Beaumont died s. p., December 20, 1508,* and his nephew, Francis Lord Lovel,† son of his sister Joan, having been attainted, and having pre-deceased his uncle, being killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487—his two sisters being also dead, the title of *Viscount* Beaumont became extinct—having been limited to John, the first Viscount, and the heirs male of his body—but the *barony* of Beaumont, being a barony in fee, descended upon Sir Brian Stapleton, Kut., and Sir John Norres, the sons of the Viscount's two sisters, Joan and Frideswide, as co-parceners in abeyance." Sir John Norres, the elder son of Frideswide, died in 6th of Elizabeth, without issue; and Henry, his younger brother, was attainted 28th of Henry VIII., and cruelly executed, for having shown some little act of gallantry to Queen Ann Boleyn.

With a view of keeping the narrative continuous, I must here state, that in 1790, the representative of the Stapleton branch, Thomas Stapleton, Esq., of Carlton, Yorkshire, preferred a petition to his Majesty, stating his claim to the Barony of Beaumont. On its being referred to the House of Peers, the Earl of Abingdon (whose second title is Baron Norreys, of Ricote) put in a counter claim, as heir general to Henry Lord Norres, the descendant of Henry Norres, who was restored in blood in the 18th of Elizabeth.

On a motion in the House, May 18th, 1790, the consideration of Mr. Stapleton's claim was adjourned for three months. It was again brought under the notice of the Committee of Privileges, in the House of Peers, in 1798, on which occasion the Lord Chancellor pronounced a very elaborate judgment on the case; concluding it with moving three Resolutions, which were unanimously confirmed by the Committee.

1. "That the Barony of Beaumont vested in William Viscount Beaumont."
2. "That the Barony remained in abeyance between the co-heirs of the said Viscount."
3. "That the petitioner, Mr. Stapleton, had proved himself to be one of the co-heirs."

Notwithstanding these steps, it was only in the year 1841 that this long and unjustly neglected claim was fully recognized in the person of the son of the last petitioner, who was summoned to Parliament by the title of Baron Beaumont.

I return to the year 1461, when, as has been stated, another distinguished personage—Sir William Hastings—obtained the reversion of Beaumanor.

To recite the numerous grants made to this once fortunate, but at length cruelly used favourite, would take up more space than is compatible with my plan. It must suffice to say, that in addition to the numerous and almost unprecedented royal favours he received, the principal nobility seem to have vied with each other, and with the Sovereign, in the extent of the grants and privileges they conferred upon him. That Lord Hastings (for he was now ennobled) was a very extraordinary, accomplished, and pleasing man, is shown

* Elizabeth, his widow, was re-married, in the following year, to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

† It was of this Lord Lovel, Catesby, and Ratcliff, that the well-known distich was written:—

"The Cat, the Rat, and Lovel the dog,
Rule all England under a *hog*!"

by these remarkable favours of the Prince and the nobles. Sir Thomas More's* character of him can hardly be suspected to be overdrawn:—"He was an honourable man, a good Knight, and a gentle; of great authority with his Prince; of living somewhat dissolute; † plain and open to his enemy, and secret to his friend; easy to be guided, as he that (of good heart and courage) forestudied no peril; a loving man, and passing well beloved; very faithful and trusty, and trusting too much."

Probably no subject had at any time more extensive power and influence, or used it with more moderation, than Lord Hastings. At a time when two Barons, nine Knights, and nearly a hundred Esquires and gentlemen ‡ bound themselves by indenture to be his faithful retainers, he is represented as "void of pride, easy to be entreated, and of ready access."

It must have been a spectacle of uncommon interest, to see this distinguished Baron and his train leaving the noble Castle of Ashby, of which he was the founder, for a day's hunting in Charnwood or Leicester Forest, of which he was Chief Forester. No man, however, more fully proved what a broken reed is "confidence in Princes." He had, in Edward the Fourth's time, incurred the disfavour of the Queen, who, Dugdale says, "owed him a grudge in regard she saw he was so powerful with the King"—and the Protector (afterwards Richard III.) soon resolved to be rid of so potent and popular a Baron. On Richard's mere allegation, and in the most summary way, perhaps, that ever even a person *proved guilty* was treated, was this injured nobleman dragged out from a meeting of the Lords' Privy Council, sent to the Tower, and within two hours consigned to the axe! June 13th, 1483. §

Well does Shakspeare make Lord Hastings exclaim—

"O momentary grace of mortal men,
Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!
Who builds his hope in air of your fair looks:
Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast,
Ready with every nod to tumble down
Into the fatal bowels of the deep!"

The murdered Lord was buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; a stately tomb, and rich screen, still known as the Hastings Chapel, mark the spot. By his will he directed that his Executors, immediately on the news of his death, should procure a thousand Priests, to say a thousand *Pluces* and *Diriges*, and a thousand masses for his soul—every Priest to have sixpence.

* Sir Thomas More's History of Richard III. † An allusion, no doubt, to Jane Shore.

‡ Their names are given in Dugdale's *Baronage*, Vol. I., p. 583.

§ Shortly after midnight preceding that fatal day, the Lord Stanley sent a trusty messenger to Lord Hastings' house, to advertise him of a dream he had that very night; viz., that a Boar (Richard's cognizance) with his tusks so razed both their heads that the blood ran about their shoulders—which made so great an impression upon himself, that he caused his horse to be made ready, resolved to have gone away that night if Hastings would have gone with him. But this the Lord Hastings slighted as a vain conceit, though the next day it was woefully fulfilled upon himself and likewise on Lord Stanley, though not so severely; for when the soldiers rushed in, and took away Hastings, they smote Stanley on the head, so that the blood ran about his ears; and, had he not stooped under the table, might have beaten out his brains.—*Dugdale's Baronage*, Vol. I., p. 584.

It is not, it must be confessed, quite apparent that Lord Hastings was ever in actual possession of Loughborough and Beaumanor; for, in 1527, when the reversion of these manors with Sheepshed was granted in exchange for Grafton and Hartwell, Northamptonshire, they were still held by the Countess of Oxford, widow of William Lord Beaumont.

The Marquis of Dorset, dying in 1530, his second son, Lord Leonard Grey (in consequence of a remainder in one of the leases from the Crown), became the next possessor of Beaumanor, where his court rolls are still preserved.

In 1537, Margaret, widow of the first Marquis of Dorset, obtained, by the King's Letters Patent, the manors of Loughborough, Sheepshed, &c., and from that time the manors of Beaumanor and Loughborough have been entirely distinct.*

Lord Leonard Grey was attainted in 1540, and his brother, the Marquis, who (with his wife Catharine, daughter of William Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel) had previously obtained from the Crown a reversionary lease of Beaumanor, procured a lease of twenty-one years both of Beaumanor and its members, viz.: Woodhouse, Woodthorpe, Quorndon, Barrow, and Mountsorrel, in exchange for Marston, Sussex, and the moiety of a manor in Bedfordshire. In 1554, he obtained a new *grant* of Beaumanor, and had a survey taken of the manor—still preserved. As the account of this noble family will be given under Bradgate and Groby, it will suffice in this place to say, that the Marquis of Dorset, having no issue by his first wife, married secondly, Frances, eldest daughter of Charles Brandon, the gay Duke of Suffolk; and that Duke, dying without any male issue surviving, the Marquis was, out of compliment to his Lady, created Duke of Suffolk. From this marriage sprang Lady Jane, Lady Catharine, and Lady Mary Grey.

The Duchess, after the death of her husband (beheaded Feb. 23, 1553-4, for his share in raising his daughter, Lady Jane, to the throne), underwent almost incredible hardships, but afterwards enjoyed much tranquillity and domestic happiness, at Beaumanor, in a second matrimonial connexion with Mr. Adrian Stocks, who had been her Master of the Horse. This alliance, though censured by some as beneath her dignity, has been praised by others for its policy, as providing for her own security: which, from her near relationship to the Crown, might, in case of an equal match, have been disturbed.

The Duchess died in 1559: in three years after which, Mr. Stocks obtained, by Letters Patent, from Elizabeth, a new lease of twenty-one years of her Highness's manor of Beaumanor, with all rights, members, and appurtenances, then extending to the towns or hamlets of Barrow, Woodhouse, Quorndon, Woodthorpe, and Mountsorrel.

Mr. Stocks had a daughter, who died an infant, by the Duchess: and about 1571, when he was returned as one of the Members of the county, he took, for his second wife, Dame Anne, widow of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, Knt.

Mr. Stocks died in 1586, leaving his brother William, then aged sixty, his heir.

In 1592, Queen Elizabeth, at the humble petition of the Earl of Essex, granted a lease of the manor of Beaumanor, in trust for the said Earl, to Gelly Meyrick and Henry Lindley, by whom it was soon after transferred to William Heyricke, Esq., of London, at an annual *rent* of £70.

* Nichols, Vol. III., p. 143.

In 1595, having purchased Lord Essex's interest in Beaumanor, with all the different outstanding leases, together with the great and small tithes in Mountsorrel and Quorndon, Mr. Heyricke took up his residence here, and held a Court. Since that period Beaumanor has continued uninterruptedly in possession of his descendants.

Some account of a family that, long prior to their connexion with Beaumanor, had been advantageously connected with the county, shall here be given. It is taken chiefly from the copious stores which Mr. Nichols' industry has gathered; and here it may be right to state, that as that gentleman's works are almost inaccessible to the majority of my readers—not two hundred copies being in existence—I conceive I am better consulting the value of my History, by incorporating with it whatever I find valuable, than by fastidiously rejecting all matter that is not original.

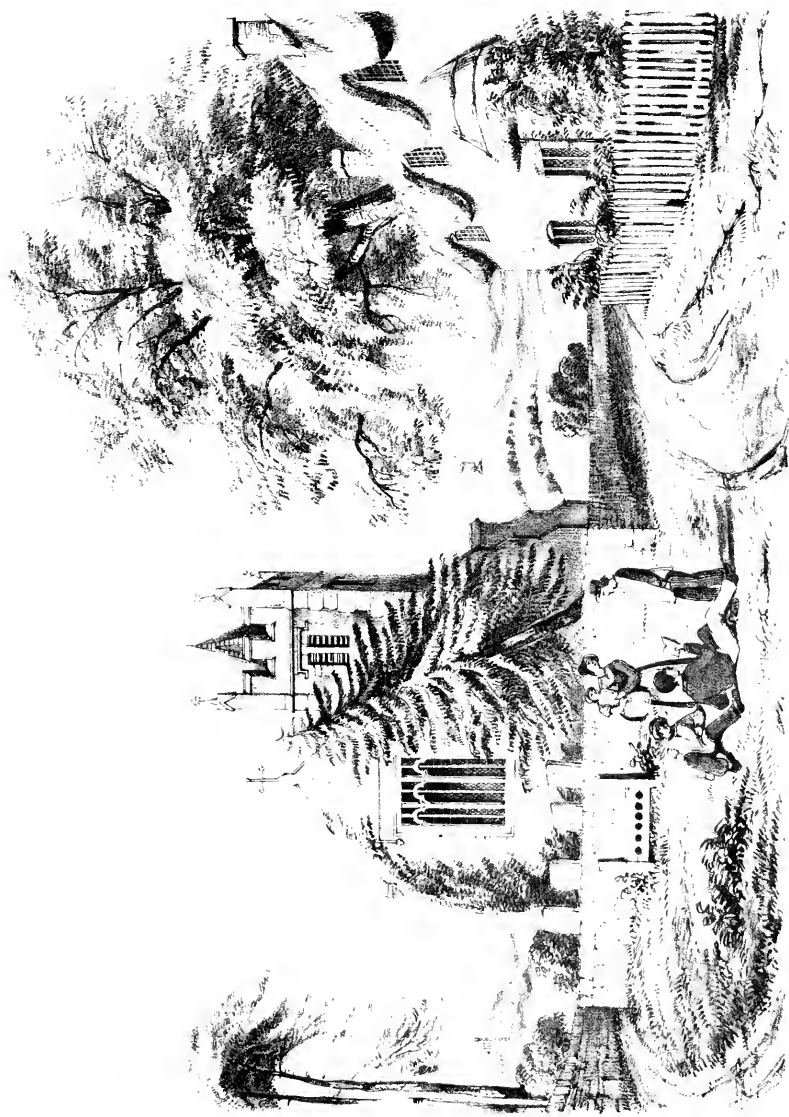
Mr. Nichols' own example furnishes ample precedent. He incorporated *whole books* in his own, not, however, forgetting the *suum cuique*.

The Herrick family are supposed to derive descent from Eric the Forester, and therefore from the ancient Kings of Sweden. I found, on the Forest, a very prevailing tradition, that this Eric assembled a large army at the Copt Oak, on Charnwood, in order to resist the Norman invader. The mode of assembling, as the tradition was related to me by an old forester, seems to have somewhat resembled that of the "gathering" of the Scottish Clans, so vividly depicted in "the Lady of the Lake." That this Eric did bravely resist William I., and afterwards, on being vanquished, become one of his Generals, rests on better evidence than tradition.

The family was seated in Leicestershire at a very early period. Eric, Ericke, Eyricke, Eyric, Heyricke, Hericke, Hearicke, Heyrick, and Herrick, are all modes which members of the family have at different times adopted. These changes can only be accounted for from the arbitrary and variable modes that formerly prevailed. The Leicester branch adhere to "Heyrick," while the possessors of Beaumanor have, for two or three generations, written "Herrick."

William Heyricke, the purchaser of Beaumanor, was the fifth son of John and Mary Heyrick, of Leicester, at which place he was born, in 1557. He went, in his seventeenth year, to reside with his brother Nicholas, in London, and seems very shortly to have become a favourite at Court. He is described by our County Historian as "a man of great abilities and address; remarkably handsome in person, and high in the confidence of Queen Elizabeth, as well as of James: and by honourable services to both, acquired large property." His being sent by Elizabeth on an embassy to the Porte, and his being rewarded with a Tellership of the Exchequer and several other places of trust, at once speak for his talents and integrity. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth previously to his departure for Constantinople, and married, in 1596, Joan,* daughter of Richard May, Esq., of Mayfield Place, Essex. The character of this exemplary lady, and admirable wife, will be better portrayed to the reader's imagination by the following beautiful and affectionate letter to her husband, than by any eulogy of mine.

* This lady was sister to Sir Humphrey May, and to the lady of Sir Baptist Hicks, afterwards Lord Campden—ancestor of the Earl of Gainsborough.



WOODHOUSE CHURCH.

"Sweet hart, I could not let so fet a messenjar pas me as hee did you. I houpe you remember Mr. Votier's Godli Use of Prayer everi morning and evining, with all your compai. As you love God leave it not undone; it shall bring a blessing on you and yours. God knows how short our time shall be on earth, as wee see daly feareful exsamples to put us in mind of our last end. Mr. Wadup the goldsmith went to Brestol well, and brought hom a ded corse; and one of our nebars at Richmond went out to milke her kine, as well as ever she was in her life, and melke two kine, and sodenly fell downe ded and never spacke more. O God, grant we may ever be preparid, as living this houre, and dying the next! Sweet hart, a littel afore you went your journi, I tould you that I must nedse take one into the hous to bring up the gerls, which you wilenly consented to that I should have one at Michelmas; but so it is hapened, that she that was with my sister Hickes* to bring up Bes Nowel is com from my sister, and will not stay, because Bes Nowel is so headstrong that she cannot rule her. My sister Hickes sent me word of hur by Sir George Write, how fet a woman she was for me to breed up my gerls; and I knowing it of my own knowledge to be so, I houpe you will not be angrī with me for it: God, that knows my hart, knows I was never loufter to ofend you in all my līfe than I have bine within this halfe yeare; and so I houpe ever I shall be. If you should bord them forth, they would cost you £14. a yeare at the least, and save nothing at home; beside, they will never be bred in Religion as at home, and weare out twice so many clothes as at home. All things considered, this is the best corse. Mr. Votier came to me, and tould me the parish and hee would make you a fare pue afore my pue; but they hard you would goo away, and they would be louft to make it for Mr. Willams. I wil'd them to goo forward with theare good intent. I houpe in God you would never leave this hous while I did live; and I besече God I may never live to gooe out of it e'en from the bottom of my harte.

"Commend me to all our frends: I must not forgite my love to Will. Wee are all in helth. I leave you to his protection, who is abel to kepe you al. Sweet hart, Mr. Teri is in possession in that offes at the Custom-hous; but what my lord will have of him, he knoweth not yet. Your true and fathful wife tel death.

"JOANE HERRICKE."

"From London, the 22 day of August, 1616."

This is one of the many interesting letters preserved among the Herrick papers at Beaumanor: from which I could have wished to draw more largely. It may with truth be pronounced a beautiful letter. Oue breathing more of conjugal affection—of maternal solicitude—of thorough simple-mindedness, and of Christian feeling, it would be difficult to find.

On Lady Heyrick's picture, still preserved at Beaumanor, is the following couplet—which, it will be easy to conclude from the foregoing beautiful sentiments, the qualities of her mind abundantly justified:—

"Art may hir outsid thys present to view,
How faire within nor art or tong can shewe."

* Lady Hickes was sister to Lady Herrick: and the author of "A Complete Survey of London," 1742, attributes a dispute about precedency, long kept before the Court of Aldermen, "to Hickes and Herrick and their imperious wives." Lady Herrick, at least, did not deserve this epithet.

Seven sons and five daughters were the issue of this marriage. The sons were—William, Robert, Richard, Fellow of All Souls, and afterwards of St. John's College, Oxford, afterwards Rector of North Reeps, Norfolk, and Warden of Christ's College, Manchester;* Thomas, Henry, a Barrister, Roger, and John.

Sir William Heyrick died in 1652, at the age of ninety-six, and was buried in St. Martin's Church, Leicester.—He was succeeded by his son William, who married the daughter of Humphrey Fox, of the City of London, Esq., and died in 1671, aged seventy-four. He left issue William, who married Ann, only daughter of William Bainbrigg, of Lockington, Esq., by whom he had three sons, William, John, and Benjamin, and one daughter. By a second marriage with Frances, daughter of William Milward, Esq., of Chilcote, Derbyshire, he had one son and three daughters. William, the eldest son, married Dorothy, daughter of James Wootton, Esq., of Weston-upon-Trent; and, dying in 1705, left by her three sons and two daughters. This gentleman left, among his papers, the following interesting memorandum, dated 1688:—

“Sir William Heyricke, Knight, of Beaumanor, in the county of Leicester, died at Beaumanor when he was 96 years of age. He lived to see William Herricke, of Beaumanor, Esq., his son; and his son's son, William Heyricke, of Beaumanor, Esq.; and his son's son's son, William Herricke, of Beaumanor, Esq., yet living, aged 37 years.—These four William Herrickes did frequently meet together in the great chamber at Beaumanor. It was the youngest that did write this account; and I was, when Sir William Herricke died, three or four years old, and I have had three children born at my manor of Beaumanor.”

There seem to have been, both in Sir William Herrick and his descendants, all those properties that distinguish the Christian gentleman. The archives of few families could produce more proofs of their observance of the domestic virtues—love to their children—kindness to the tenantry, their servants, and the poor—exactitude in their accounts—and liberality, tempered by economy. A love of nature, and a keen perception of natural beauty—so rare in those days—seem to have been hereditary in the family, and to have strongly attached them to Beaumanor. Of this feeling, the last-named Mr. Herrick left many proofs. The following is one of his many memoranda:—“Thursday, July 23, 1696, about a quarter of an hour before nine o'clock at night, as I was walking in the lane, I saw, full west, just over Hanging-stone Hill, on the Forest, in the sky, just like a scythe bended in the back, and the edge hollowed like a scythe—the sky very clear, and no clouds, and about the length of a scythe: it was of the colour of flame, but the full length I could not see, the hills hindering me.”†

Mr. Herrick died in 1705; his widow survived him forty-four years, and died at the age of one hundred! He was succeeded by his eldest son, William, who married Lucy, daughter of John Gage, Esq., of Bentley Park, Sussex—an immediate descendant of Sir John

* A preferment obtained from Charles I., in consideration of the surrender of Sir William's pension.

† Different members of the family have been distinguished for poetical talents of high order: Robert Herrick, author of “Hesperides,” was not, perhaps, surpassed by any lyric poet of the sixteenth century—and Lieut. John Heyrick, R.N., evinced talents that rendered his early death as great a loss to society as his life had been a solace of his friends.

Gage, of Firc. He died in 1773, aged eighty-four, leaving three sons, William, John, and Thomas Bainbrigg, and one surviving daughter, Lucy, married to Richard Gildart, of Norton Hall, Staffordshire.—The seventh William Herrick, who succeeded his father in 1773, served the office of High Sheriff of the county in 1786. He married Sarah Stokes, of Woodhouse, and on his death the estates passed to his heir-at-law and nephew, the present William Herrick, Esq., only son of Thomas Bainbrigg Herrick, Esq., and Mary, daughter of James Perry, Esq., of Eardisley Park, Herefordshire, who is, therefore, the eighth of his name who has inherited Beaumanor.

The first mansion was erected by Henry Lord Beaumont, about the year 1340. The residence of the previous possessors of the manor—the Despensers—having apparently been at Little Haw—which Nichols erroneously thought was, in all probability, identical with Beaumanor.* In a survey taken in 1656, this house is thus mentioned:—"This ancient Manor House of Beaumanor standeth and is seated in the Park called Beaumanor Park. The Manor House is moated round about with a very fair and clear moat; and a little distant from the said moat are barn and stables, and all other useful offices standing and seated; about which said building is a second moat; and round about this ancient Manor House lieth the said Park." This moat may still be traced. The house, from the view of it preserved in Nichols, appears to have been somewhat modernized in the beginning of the seventeenth century. It was taken down in 1725, and unfortunately replaced by an erection as devoid of architectural beauty as incongruous with the scenery that surrounds it. This ill-contrived and tasteless fabric, ere the description meets the reader's eye, will also have disappeared. Mr. Herrick is erecting, from the chaste designs of Mr. Railton, a noble Elizabethan mansion, which, when completed, will have few equals of its class. The offices are already erected; they are admirably planned, and are on a scale of great magnitude. The house will be of faced brick; the window-frames, door-ways, angles and parapets, being of Derbyshire freestone.—Some surprise has been expressed, that one of the many preferable sites which the estate affords, should not have been selected for so noble an edifice. Attachment to a spot hallowed by so many recollections, is certainly a natural, if not a commendable feeling. But other reasons justify the continuance on the old site. The noble double avenue—one of the finest specimens of that now almost exploded appendage to a Park—would have appeared quite out of place, had another site been fixed upon. And, after all, low as is the situation of Beaumanor, it embraces views that leave on the mind a charm rarely, if ever, imparted by an extensive prospect. On the south front, the avenue, so appropriate an adjunct to a Tudor mansion, forms at all seasons a most delightful foreground. The western front commands scenery of such extraordinary diversity and beauty, as to have elicited the admiration of every writer who has noticed it. The eye is carried over a valley studded with majestic oaks, to some of the boldest prominences of the eastern Forest, especially to the Hanging-stone rocks, which form, when viewed in the hues of departing day, such a scene as the lover of nature cannot view without delight. Throsby says of it, "those who have not leisure to see the whole Forest, hither let them come to behold the most splendid scene in it."†

* Nichols' West Goscote, p. 119.

† Views in Leicestershire, p. 227.

The Great Park was disparked by Sir William Heyrick, except a small portion, which remained till 1690. It is not unlikely that, after the completion of the new Hall, it may again be, at least, partially restored.

An old family coach, built about a century ago, is still preserved at Beaumanor. It is chiefly built of carved ash, and is, perhaps, one of the most singular curiosities of the kind in England; it is believed, too, that it is unique.

At the Hall door lie some curious specimens of natural paintings of foliage, formed by water, impregnated with ironstone, insinuating itself between the cleavage of the slate rocks. There is also a portion of the same schistose rock, from Mr. Herrick's Gate House quarry, in which a rounded granite pebble, of three inches diameter, is imbedded. I am not aware that a stone of this kind has ever before been discovered so imbedded *in slate*. There are several very fine family portraits at Beaumanor, particularly those of Sir William and Lady Heyrick.* The family papers, too, of which Nichols and Throsby so largely availed themselves, are of very great interest; many of them throw great light on the history of the times. Some letters from Elizabeth and James I., soliciting Sir William's pecuniary assistance, are singularly curious. The following writ of Privy Seal furnishes evidence of the state of the Exchequer, and of the modes adopted to replenish it, in 1596-7:—

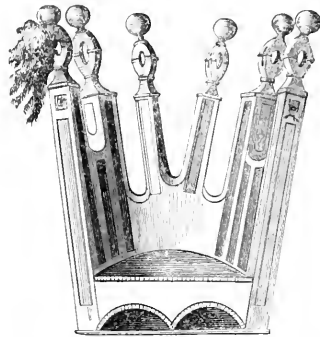
“ BY THE QUEENE.

“ Trustie & wel-belovid, we greete yow well. The contynual greate charges which wee have, for the necessarie defence of and preservacion of our dominions and subiectes, are so notorious as neede not to be otherwise declared then may iustlie be conceived by all our loving subiectes, being bnt of common understanding. And therefore, at this presente, finding cause of increase and contynnaunce of suche charges exceeding all other ordinary meanes; and not mynding to presse our subiectes with anie presente free gift of monie, but only to be supplied with some reasonable pencion by waie of loane for onne yeaere's space; wee have made speciall choise of suche our loving subiectes as are knowne to be of abilitie; amongst which, we accompte yow one; and therefore we require yow, by these presentes, to lend us the some of fyftie poundes for the space of one yeaere, and the some to be payd unto Benedict Barnham or Thomas Looe, aldermen by us appointed as collectors thereof, which we promise to repaye to yow or your assignes, at the end of one yeaere, in the receipte or exchequer, upon giving of this privie seale subscribed by the said collectors, testifieing the receipte hereof. Given under our privie seale, at our pallace Westm'r the xxvith daie of January, in the xxxixth yeaere of our raigne.”

“ THO. KERY.”

In the Hall is a remarkable chair, cut out of a single tree that grew in the Park. It bears the date 1690, and is inscribed with the family motto, *Virtus omnia nobilitat*. It is always crowned with a garland containing two rose-buds and a spear, presented every Midsummer-day to the Lord of Beaumanor, by Mr. Farnham, as suit and service for Rusha Fields (?) The garland always graces the chair till removed for its successor of the following year.

* It ought previously to have been stated, that Sir William Heyrick twice represented Leicester in Parliament, and in a manner that obtained for him the grateful acknowledgments of his constituents.



THE GARLAND AND OAKEN CHAIR AT BEAUMANOR.

In the Hall of old Beaumanor
 Stands a giant oaken chair,
 Deftly formed—and who the planner
 Legends of the vale declare.

Well it tells what oaks once flourished
 In Beaumanor's woodland vale:
 Embryo navies there were nourished,
 Ere our navies learnt to sail.

Ere the Roses' bloody quarrel—
 Ere the Barons' lengthen'd feud—
 Ere the siege of high Mountsorrel,
 That brave oak was "King-o'-th'-Wood."

Ah! what forms of by-gone ages
 Sought its shade from noontide rays;
 Poets, warriors, statesmen, sages,
 Glorious Beaumonts—gallant Greys.

Bradgate's early blighted beauty
 Sat with Aylmer in its shade—
 List'n'ing lore of faith and duty—
 Nymph and Druid of the glade.

Herrick, fam'd for love-fraight lyrics,
 Sang his love-songs in these groves;
 Half Anacreon's soul was Herrick's,
 And the other half was—Love's.

Nail or joining not requiring:
 Cut from out one solid bole:
 Strangers ask, this chair admiring,
 "This the fragment! what the whole?"

Round its crown-like summit twining
 Hangs a garland, green or sear:
 Rose-buds wreathed round war-arm shining,
 Beauty's flower on Valour's spear.

Legends say how old Beaumanor
 Once a Royal Park was made;
 How a Farnham bore a banner
 Bravely in the fierce Crusade.

How a grant to faithful Farnham
 Then was made for service done,
 Of the lands of false de Varnam,
 "Long as Soar to Trent shall run."

Suit and service only making
 At Beaumanor, year by year.
 Rose-buds two—one arrow taking—
 Arrow head, or shaftless spear.

Emblems these of Knighthood's duty,
 Due from loyal liegemen are:
 Rose-buds—homage vowed to beauty—
 Spear—the ready hand for war.

Note.—The following extracts will account for this customary service:—On the decease of Thomas Farnham, Esq., in 1574, it was found that the manor of Quorndon, called The Over Hall, one hundred and eighty acres of land and forty of wood, in Quorndon, were held of the Queen, as of her manor of Beaumanor, in free socage, *by the rent of one garland of roses, one rose flower, and one barbed arrow, of iron*, to be annually paid on the feast of St. John the Baptist, in lieu of all other services, suits of Court, &c. In a rent-roll at Beaumanor (1597) occur the following entries:—Adrian Farnham, Esq., 6*d.*, as chief rent for The Hall Carr, and 11*s.* for Turville's lands, in the manor of Rushall, called Rusa or Rushall Fields, in the liberty of Woodhouse.—"Bundle of deeds relating to the manor of Rushall, Mr. Varnham's estate," is a sentence quoted by Nichols, under Snarestone, which he confesses to be somewhat unintelligible.

WOODHOUSE, WOODHOUSE EAVES, AND WOODTHORPE.

The names of these sequestered and delightful old hamlets, surrounding Beaumanor, were, doubtless, first given to some solitary lodges in the "vast wilderness," which at one period extended from the Forest to the Park of Quorn.* The two former are in the parish of Barrow, the latter in that of Loughborough. I class them under one head, from the similarity of their derivation, and from their connexion with Beaumanor.

Woodhouse Proper, lying nearly a mile east of the Forest, first claims notice. It is not mentioned in Domesday Book. Nichols thought *Udecote* an early name for it, but he was unquestionably in error. That place is situated near Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

In 1427, it was found that Elizabeth, widow of Henry Beaumont, died seised of Woodhouse as a member of Beaumanor.†

The Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, at Leicester, possessed the great tithes here—the Monks of St. Severus the small tithes. The former had a *bercaria, pomarium*, and tithe-barn in Woodhouse. Mr. (shortly afterwards Sir) William Heyricke purchased, in 1599, the tithes here, together with Garat's Hay and Little Wellows, which contained two hundred acres of land, of Henry Best and Robert Holland; Garat's Hay, however, passed from the Herrick family to the Cooks—from the Cooks to the Hartopps—and was sold by Chiverton Hartopp, Esq., father of the first Baroness Howe, to Edward Heanes, Esq., the ancestor of the present owner, Miss Watkinson.

A very superior village school was founded here in 1691, by a benevolent resident, Mr. Rawlins, who lived many years after to witness the good effects of his foundation. Probably few schools of similar character have had such a succession of excellent masters.

"In this place," says Burton, "Henry Lord Beaumont and Alice his wife, by the license of the Abbot of Leicester, built a very fair and stately Chapel, of Ashler stone, in 1388. It was again repaired in 1450, for I have seen a deed of covenants made between Robert Farnham, of Quorndon, of the one part, and a certain Free-mason, for the new building of the steeple, and the repair of the Church, dated 28 Henry VI. It was then new glazed and repaired, as I should guess, by the arms of King Henry VI. standing in the east window of the Chapel; and at the costs and charges (for the most part) of the Viscount Beaumont, as it should seem, by the coats and matches in the said windows."

The arms of Beaumont, quartering Jerusalem, are still in the east window.

The Chapel, of which an engraving is given, is one of those unobtrusive and venerable fabrics, that of themselves awaken holy feelings. I visited it for the first time (if an author

* There is a passage in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica* (page 248), which I deem to be of considerable importance, as explanatory both of the origin of the name of *Barrow*, and of that of these members of that extensive lordship. He says of Barrow in Lincolnshire, "Wulpher, King of the Mercians, gave to that pious man, Cead, or Chad, about the middle of the seventh century, the land of fifty families, as Bede tells us, to build a Monastery at a place called *At Barwe*, that is, *at the wood*. . . . some appearance of which remained in his time." This not only accounts for the name of Barrow, but for *Woodhouse, Woodthorpe*, &c.

† 8 Esch. 3 Edward IV., No. 30, Leic'.

may be pardoned for introducing any thing of his personal history) when the loss of one child had made me feel that "man was made to mourn." Here is one memorial raised to the memory of *seren!*

On my second visit, three hundred children, with happy faces, were on their way to Beaumanor. On inquiring the object of this assemblage of healthy-looking rustics, I learnt that they "were going to Beaumanor for a Valentine:" where, I understood, each child received a penny, and a halfpenny, on their returning, from Miss Watkinson. It is astonishing what an amount of happiness can be conferred by such a trifling sum; every face was literally beaming with joy. This custom has long been observed here. In 1743 there were only thirty recipients. A custom of offering New Year's gifts to the Lord of Beaumanor was long observed among the tenantry; it is now, I believe, laid aside. Whatever tends to increase feelings of respect between a resident proprietor and those living on the estate, is not undeserving of notice.

The pen of Washington Irving might do justice to Woodhouse. Its situation at the foot of the finest scenery of the Forest—its modest Chapel—its rose-twined cottages—its shady lane—and the neatness, comfort, and content, that seem to pervade every dwelling, are fitter subjects for the poet than the historian. Even to the unpoetic mind, they might recal that charming and just description,

"The cottage homes of England! by thousands on her plains,
They are smiling o'er the silv'ry brooks, and round the village fanes;
Through glowing orchards forth they peep, each from its nook of leaves,
And fearless there the lowly sleep, as the birds beneath their eaves."

Nor must the house and grounds of Miss Watkinson (a considerable proprietress both in Woodhouse and on the Forest) be omitted. Nichols, Vol. III., page 133, gives an engraving of this house, as having been the birth-place of Baroness Howe.

WOODHOUSE EAVES derives the addition to its name from its situation on the edge of the Forest. Though the Woodhouse already described, from its having long had a Chapel, has generally been considered the older hamlet, it appears that the part called the Eaves was, in fact, the earliest inhabited spot. From a few straggling cottages or *sheelings*, built, no doubt, by the Forest keepers and shepherds, it has risen to be of considerable extent. One cause of its rise from these small beginnings may be attributed to there having, in early times, been a Royal hunting residence in this place; at least, such is the tradition I have gleaned from several inhabitants.

The house now occupied by Mr. Cradock, but belonging to Miss Watkinson, stands on the supposed site of this ancient hunting palace. On this spot, in the last century, stood a mansion, of a singularly quaint and antique style of architecture. A person named Fouldes, whose ancestors at one period owned it, states, that it was formerly accounted a parcel of the manor of Greenwich—and held, as he has heard his father say, at a pepper-corn rent. This seems to corroborate the opinion that it had, in all likelihood, been a Royal residence. The late Mr. Watkinson discovered many remains of ancient massy walls, which he believed to have been parts of a Chapel connected with the mansion; and Mr. Lester informs me

that gilt bricks, with figures in relief, and many other ancient relics, have been found on this spot.

No class of persons retains traditions with more tenacity than the inhabitants of a Forest or thinly peopled district. Their isolated situation, naturally somewhat circumscribing their range of thought, leads them the more frequently to dwell on the few subjects that present themselves. There is, besides, amongst such a peasantry, a peculiar fondness for descanting on the wonderful past. Each Forester is peculiarly a "*laudator temporis acti*;" and hence it is that a great deal of the history of the Forest may be gleaned from the unwritten testimony of the denizens. The late Mr. Watkinson, of Woodhouse, a gentleman far too intelligent to entertain any opinion that had not reason for its basis, was at considerable pains in investigating the prevailing belief of a Royal hunting seat on the spot alluded to: and arrived at the conclusion, that the old house in question was, undoubtedly, at one time, occupied by Edward III.

In addition to this house, there were, in the last century, ten or eleven others of a very ancient style; only one of which, the Bull's Head, now remains. Many people can remember this house being covered with pointed gables and tall chimneys. It is supposed these old houses were built for the accommodation of the attendants on the Court.

A beautiful coin, with the legend HENRICVS DEI. GRA. REX. ANG. FRANC, and with the reverse I.H.C. AVTEM TRANSIENS PER. MEDIVM ILLORVM IBAT,* was discovered in repairing a well belonging to Mr. Cradock's house. It is now in Miss Watkinson's cabinet.

WOODTHORPE lies about a mile from Beanmanor. It is a delightful old hamlet, abounding in many of the true characteristics of English rural life. Three or four respectable farm houses—one apparently of considerable antiquity—and a few neat cottages, make up the whole of this quiet place. It is one of those nooks of the world, over which one feels disposed to say, with Moore, that if Peace, like Astræa, has not quitted our planet,

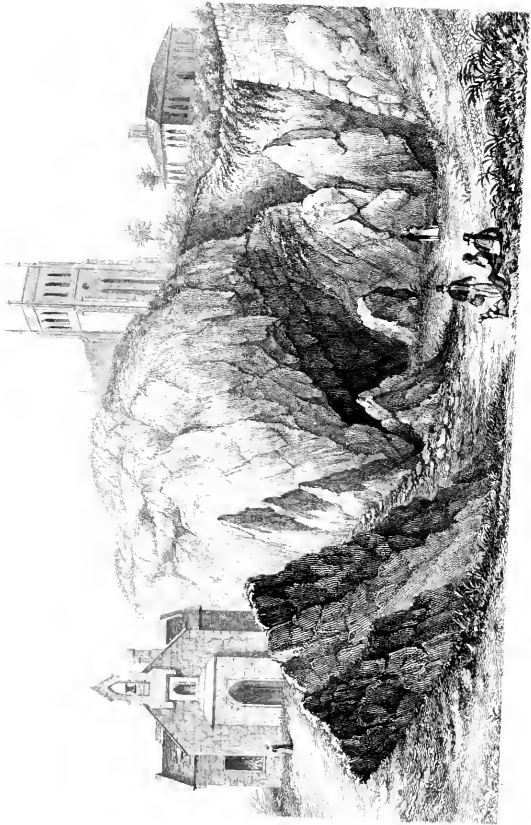
"The heart that is humble might hope for it here."

In 1463, it was found that William Viscount Beaumont, attainted of high treason, was seized of two hundred acres of wood, at Woodcote, co. Leicester.† The contiguity of Woodthorpe to Beanmanor is one reason why I conclude, without much hesitation, that Woodcote was only an earlier name for it, though Nichols thinks it may have been either Woodhouse or Woodthorpe.

It has frequently occurred to me, during the course of my researches, as somewhat singular, that a Park of such extent as that of Barrow should have had no known mansion or hunting residence for the use of its lord. Several expressions in ancient deeds, had, it will be remembered, led me to look in Barrow Proper for the site of this mansion. Subsequent examination both of Woodthorpe and the records connected with it, has convinced me that

* Jesus passed through the midst of them, and went his way.—*Luke*, chap. iv., ver. 30.

† Esch. 3, IV., No. 30, Leic.





LOWER CLIFF, BEACON HILL.

it was at the latter place. In the homestead occupied by Mr. Fletcher are the evident foundations and terraces of a very ancient and extensive building; below these is an artificial lake (now dry), which appears to have been supplied both by a rindlet and a feeder—exactly corresponding with the description “*aqueductum labentem in vicarium comitis,*” &c. This expression, if correctly applied to this spot, at once fixes two difficult points—the northern boundary of the ancient Park of Quorndon, and the site of the occasional abode of the Earls of Chester.

Again, the tract between Woodthorpe and the river Soar has long been called Searles-thorpe—a name which was doubtless a corruption of Th’ Earl’s Thorpe—and it is not unlikely, when the latter hamlet became obliterated, and Woodcote the only hamlet, that the two names were afterwards contracted into Woodthorpe.*

The lover of “rural sights and sounds,” or of nature in her grand or quiet features, will find sufficient in a circuit of three miles from Beaumanor to employ a long summer’s day. The midland counties contain few tracts of equal extent that afford a more delightful excursion than that from the ancient Chapel at Woodhouse—through Woodhouse Faves—by the beautiful new Chapel—over the hill—the Broombriggs—Beacon—the Hanging-stone Rocks—and Beaumanor. The Forest peasantry, so different in their modes of thought and expression from the inhabitants of densely peopled districts, will not fail to please the lover of his kind. Many of them are fully alive to the wonders by which they are surrounded. One venerable old man, at work in the Gate-house quarry, observing me searching for the dip, asked me, with a smile expressive of his consciousness of superior wisdom in such matters. “Which way is Judæa?” I at once pointed my hand in a south-easterly direction. “You are right,” replied my Mentor; “Find Judæa, and you will find the direction of these rocks. Find the dip, and you will point to Judæa. This is the case over the whole world, and has been so ever since the Saviour’s resurrection.” I found professor Sedgwick’s anticlinal line theory at once destroyed!!! Of course I did not attempt to shake a belief that seemed not unmingled with natural piety. On the contrary, I thought with Campbell,

When *Science* from Creation’s face Enchantment’s veil withdraws,
What lovely visions yield their place to cold *material* laws.

I was conducting the reader over the environs of Woodhouse. The new Chapel, founded on a romantic rock, with a Parsonage and School-house beautifully harmonizing with it in architectural character and aptness for the site, form a combination of singular beauty. The designs are very chaste, and an effect is produced by the Forest granite, with finials of free-stone, that can scarcely fail to bring this somewhat novel style of building into favour. Mr. Railton, the architect, has judiciously placed the vestibule beneath the belfry tower.

* To avoid having again to return to Searles-thorpe, I notice here a discovery made a short time ago near the nursery grounds of Mr. Robinson, lying in Searles-thorpe. On ploughing up an ancient inclosure, the foundations of a building, which had all the appearance of having been those of a Church or Chapel, were brought to light. Nichols imagines that, near the foundations above described, viz.: on the site of the present pinfold, was an ancient Chapel. If a Chapel ever did exist in Woodthorpe, it must have been in the field still called “The Church-yard Piece,” which is at a considerable distance from the hamlet. Either in this Church-yard piece, or on the spot in the nursery grounds, the Chantry, mentioned by Nichols as belonging to Loughborough, very likely stood.

The Parsonage is not seen in the engraving of the Chapel. The door-way, surmounted by a bell, leads to the school-house; the cavern, in the foreground, has been a quarry. A spring of most pellucid water, which supplies all the neighbouring houses, rises in the middle of the excavation.

At a short distance from the Chapel lies the Brand—a name, it is supposed, derived from its having been the spot where cattle, about to be turned on the Forest, were previously *branded* with the Forest mark.* Crossing the Sty Hills, and leaving Woodhouse to the right, Broombriggs, the creation of the late Mr. Charles Allsop, forms a fair specimen of the agricultural capabilities of the Forest. The prospect from the hill above the house is of surprising extent and interest. A mile brings the tourist to the summit of Beacon. Wonderful at all times—lovely beyond expression, at sunrise and sunset, are views from this eminence. The beloved Pastor and Poet of the vale, that holds my home, shall describe the ascent and the reward of it.

Over a hill of golden-blossomed furze,
Above the straggling fern, when now with toil
Of straining limbs he gains the beaconed top—
Looks over into valleys wonderful—
Thick timbered valleys, with their fair Church towers
Stretched into hazy distance, till a bank
Of bright blue hills, with outline gently curved,
Stands up before the sunset!†

Those “bright blue hills” are the Peak of Derbyshire; and from the “far west” the eye travels over Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire to the towers of Belvoir—to the borders of Rutland—to Leicester—to Bradgate—till, wearied with the countless objects that crowd upon it, or arrested by some underlying town or holy fane, it yields a while its functions, and leaves the mind to enjoy the images it has conveyed to it.

The fortifications round this wonderful hill (mountain, Professor Whewell called it) will have their share of attention from every intelligent visitor. The land-slip of 1679, a curious account of which will be found in the Appendix, should not be forgotten. Its traces may still be found in a field at the north-west foot of Beacon, now called “The Falling-in.” The other geological peculiarities of the hill and its immediate neighbourhood, as pointed out under the article GEOLOGY, and in Mr. C. Allsop’s Paper (both of which will also be found in the Appendix), are extremely deserving of attention. The circumference of the hill will be perceived to be of great extent at its base. From this point I would direct the tourist to the Hanging-stone Rocks. The western side of these presents a landscape that contains many elements of the sublime as well as of the beautiful. A near view will tend, it is hoped, to confirm the statements already advanced with regard to the Druidical remains.‡ The *once* Hanging-stone is an object that cannot be contemplated without wonder. The Altar, or Shepherd’s Table—the circle of stones—and above all, the fine forms of the rocks, will not fail to impress the beholder with surprise that such scenery has hitherto been so little noticed.

* Thorpe Brand and Breedon Brand are the names of two other places said to have been used for the same purpose.

† School of the Heart, by the Rev. Henry Alford, M.A.

‡ Since the above was in type, I have been informed by Mr. Lester that another Quern, similar to the one found on Kite Hill, was discovered in this neighbourhood, and that it is now *in a wall* at Woodhouse Eaves!

LITTLE HAW.

Abbas et Conventus Leyce' concesserunt Galfrido Dispensatori et herodibus suis construere capellam in fundo suo de LITTLEHAWE intra parochiam ecclesie de Barowe, et in eadem capellanum divina officia celebrantem sine campanæ pulsatione.—*Charyte's Rentale, fol. 15.*

CHARYTE'S *Rentale of Leicester Abbey*, an extract from which heads this section, has preserved the name of a place, the exact situation of which can only now be conjectured—LITTLE HAW. That this Haw was in the parish of Barrow, and, from its having been the residence of Geoffrey le Despenser, in the *Woodhouse division of it*, seems evident from the *Rentale*. Nichols considered that the *fundus* of Little Haw, and the present Park of Beaumanor, were probably identical; and that when Henry Lord Beaumont erected Beaumanor on the same site, the Chapel was destroyed—a conjecture utterly at variance with the spirit of those times. Other reasons also induce me to believe that Little Haw was situated in that part of the Forest now called New Closes, between Bird Hill and Broombriggs.

This spot, in the boundaries of Barrow parish, is called Lihtelyes and Lytelhyes (or Little Heys), and is at this day called Little Hills.* That part of it known as the New Closes, has traditionally been considered the oldest inclosure on the Forest: and it retains, at the present day, all the characteristics of a spot having long ago been brought into subjection and then abandoned; and, further, it well agrees with the description—*fundus*. Where history is silent, tradition becomes a valuable aid. The belief that a Church once stood above Woodhouse Eaves, and near or upon the very spot to which I assign the erection of this Chapel by Geoffrey le Despenser, is still entertained amongst the inhabitants of this part of the Forest.

If the grounds on which I have attempted to fix this locality are untenable, there is another spot which far more closely answers to the description than Beaumanor, viz.: the old mansion now occupied by Mr. Cradock. The first house on this site, as has already been shown, was doubtless the *nucleus* of Woodhouse Eaves: and it may be that, after the attainder of the Despensers, it was for a time retained as a hunting residence by the Crown, from its contiguity to the ancient Forest.

The origin of the family of Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, is so unknown to antiquarians, that I may be permitted, for once, to deviate from my rule, and give his Pedigree, to which the connexion of his family with the county of Leicester enables me to add four generations. Burke conjectures that he descended from Robert Dispensator, the Steward of William the Conqueror. But in that case, there would have been little ground for the excessive jealousy of the Nobles at his elevation to the Earldom. I think it more probable that his great-grandfather was Steward to the Earl of Leicester, who, with his Countess Petronilla, condescended to become witnesses to a grant from him to Garendon Abbey. Madox (*Baronia Anglica, p. 133*) states that “the Earls and great Lords did in many particulars imitate the form and fashion of the King's Court. As the King had, so had they

* “Inter Lihtelyes et Brombriggs. Et de Colweyforth ex transverso Lyhtelyes usque Falconers heye.”—The constant variations of orthography occurring, as they often do, in the same page, will account for a much greater change than that of Lyhtelyes, &c., into Little Haw.

Dapifers or Seneschals, Chamberlains, and other officers in their households." In the case of the Earls of Leicester, we know (*Nichols, Vol. III. p. 787*) that *they* affected this splendour. Ernald de Bosco, Steward to a former Earl of Leicester, was certainly a person of some wealth.

PEDIGREE OF LE DESPENSER.

Thomas le Despenser. In a grant of lands at Burton to the Monks of Garendon (= Rectnare, daughter of
(*Nichols, Vol. III., p. 810*), he speaks of his wife Rectnare, and his son Geoffrey. This deed must have been executed between 1168 and 1189, because Robert, Earl of Leicester, and his Countess, Petronilla, were witnesses. In another deed (p. 811) he grants to them lands near Holywell Haw. This grant was afterwards confirmed by Ranulph de Blondeville, who was Earl of Chester from 1176 to 1232.

Geoffrey le Despenser. In a grant of lands in Rampston (p. 831), he is called (= daughter of
Geoffrey le Despenser, of Hickling.

Thomas le Despenser. In grants of lands at Burton and Stanton (p. 815 and (= ... daughter of
817), he calls himself the son of Geoffrey, and speaks of his wife and sons, without, however, mentioning their Christian names.

Hugh le Despenser. In 1220 = Aliva, dan.
he was patron of the Church of Loughborough; and in 1239, owner of Beaumanor. In 1223, he was deputed, with his brother-in-law, Stephen de Segrave, to take charge of the Castles of Chester and Beeston. Justiciar of England in 1260. Created Baron le Despenser in 1261. Killed at the battle of Evesham, 1265. Attainted. This is the first Le Despenser known to be of the family of the Earl of Winchester, mentioned by Burke, who could not discover the name of his father, though given in the Segrave Chartulary (*Nich., Vol. II., p. 112*), and distinctly stated by Nichols, *Vol. III., p. 408*.

Geoffrey le Des-
penser. He had
license about 1235
to build a Chapel
at Little Haw. In
the reign of Ed-
ward I, he held
lands at Arnesby
and elsewhere, in
Leicestershire.
See Testa de
Nevil, Nichols,
*Vol. I., p. 1, and
li.*

John le
Despen-
ser. He
held
Beauma-
nor under
his bro-
ther
Hugh.
Died in
1271.

Henry le De-
spenser. With
his father and
his brother
Hugh, he was
a witness to a
deed of Stephen
de Segrave.
*Nichols, Vol.
III., page 867.*
He is distinctly
called brother
of Hugh, in
another deed,
page 826.

Rohese, or Rose,
married to Sir Ste-
phen de Segrave,
Justiciary of Eng-
land, who died in
1241. She was en-
dowed, by her father
Thomas, with an
annuity charged on
lands at Burton-on-
the-Wolds; and by
her brother Hugh,
with lands in Barrow
and Mountsorrel.
See Segrave Char-
tulary. Nichols,
*Vol. II., p. 112, 113,
and 117.*

John le Despenser. In the reign of Edward II, his estate was (= ... dan.
larger than any other in Leicestershire, with two exceptions. See of
Nichols, Vol. I., p. xiv.

Joan, married to William de
Ferrars, Baron of Groby, who
died 1287.

Hugh le Despenser, born 1235. Restored to the Barony of le Despenser in 1295. Created (= Isabel, daughter of
Earl of Winchester in 1322. Hanged at Bristol, 1325, aged 90. Attainted. Nichols con- William Beau-
sidered him the son of the former Hugh (*Vol. III., p. 136*). Burke calls him his grandson, champ, Earl of
but was unable to ascertain his father's Christian name. Called, in English history, "The Warwick.
Elder Spenser."

Hugh le Despenser.* Summoned to Parliament in 1310, as "Sir Hugh le Despenser, Junior, (= Alianora, dan.
Lord Despenser." Hanged at Hereford, 1326. Attainted. He is often styled Earl of Gloucester, of Gilbert,
from having married Eleanor, the eldest sister and co-heir to her brother, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Earl of Gloucester.
Gloucester and Hertford. Called "The Younger Spenser."

* His son, Hugh le Despenser, was restored in 1339, as Lord le Despenser: whose son, Thomas le Despenser, was created Earl of Gloucester in 1398; but was attainted in 1400. He left an only daughter, his heir, who carried the Barony of le Despenser into the Beauchamp family. From them it came to the Nevilles; from them to the Fanes; from them to the Dashwoods; and on the death of Lady Austin, Baroness le Despenser, to the Stapletons.

MAPPLEWELL.

(*Mapulwell, Maplewell, Mapplewell.*)

This is another hamlet in the extensive lordship of Barrow : forming, in fact, the south-western corner of it. It is in the liberty of Woodhouse. This estate, which was a very early inclosure, belonged, for several generations, to the ancient family of Whatton—from whom it passed to the Raworths. It was afterwards in the possession of Dr. Levett, of Nottingham, from whom it passed to Mr. Barber, and was sold by him to Mr. Crompton, of Derby, in whose family it still remains.

There was, in 1673, a good mansion here, surrounded by a moat and approached by a draw-bridge. This has disappeared, and a farm-house has been erected from the materials, which, with two or three lone cottages, forms the whole of Mapplewell.

Geoffrey Whatton, the last possessor, of that name, was a somewhat eccentric character : he refused to pay levies to Woodhouse, though on a trial at the Assizes Mapplewell was proved to be in that constabulary. On this refusal, a curious petition, signed by William Heyricke, Ralph Rivitt, and other inhabitants of Woodhouse, was presented to the Earl of Huntingdon, then Lord-Lieutenant, praying him “to convent the said Whatton to answer the premisses.” The case came at length before Judge Croke, and was by him referred to Sir Arthur Hazelrigge and Sir Wolstan Dixie.—I mention this circumstance, because the grounds of Mr. Whatton’s refusal have been stated to me to have been founded on some real or supposed privileges and immunities, granted to the owner of this estate by one of our Kings, when residing in that liberty.

Not having been able to discover any report of the pleadings in this case, I cannot state whether this information can be relied on. It would, if correct, considerably strengthen the reasons for believing the tradition already referred to, as prevailing at Woodhouse Eaves.

The earliest name of this hamlet, *Mapulwell (May-pole-well)*, inclines me to think that on this spot the Druids were accustomed to celebrate the Bel-tein,* and, subsequently, the ancient Foresters to offer honours to Flora.

The author of “The Way to Things by Words, and by Words to Things,” has some observations on these rural sacrifices that render such a supposition not an unnatural one. He says, “*The Column of the May* (whence our May-pole) was the great standard of justice in the *Ey-Commons* or *Fields of May*. Here it was that the people, if they saw cause, deposed or punished their Governors, their Barons, or their Kings. The Judges’ bough or wand (at this time discontinued, or faintly represented by a nosegay), and the staff or rod of authority, the *mace*, as well as the term *Mayor*, were all derived from this. The youths and maidens joined, on these occasions, in singing songs, of which the chorus was, “We have brought the Summer home.”†

Mapplewell is altogether an interesting part of the Forest.

* This festival may still be traced in the mountains of *Cumberland* and on the *Cheviot Hills*. Mr. Pennant, in his “*Tour in Scotland*,” gives a particular description of it. Scott says,

“Blooming at Beltane—in winter to fade.”

Our shepherds still retain the term.

† Ency. Londin, Article *May*.

ALDERMAN'S HAW.

In dispositione Prioris de Bermondsey, qui consuierit habere ibi tres monachos.—*Matriculus of Bp. Welles.*

Situated nearly in the centre of the Forest, and belonging to the hamlet of Woodhouse, but in the parish of Barrow, is Alderman's Haw. A small farm-house, standing low on a brooklet, surrounded by a few fields of old inclosure, presenting to the casual observer little of what is attractive or picturesque, would scarcely seem to require any lengthened notice. It is, however, a spot of considerable interest, on account of the ecclesiastical disputes which have been raised respecting it, and the obscurity which still seems to shroud some part of its history.

In the year 1082, Aylwin Child, a rich citizen of London, founded in Southwark a fair Church and Monastery, placing therein some Cluniac Monks, who were procured from the Priory *de Charitate* in France. He obtained for it the manor of Bermondsey, and by his exertions the new Monastery was enriched with many benefactions, amongst which was the villate of *Andrætesberie*, presented to the Priory by William de Belmeis. The exact site of *Andrætesberie* is now unknown; but it appears, from the register of the Priory of Bermondsey, that it was given to the Monks of that house, in exchange for the manor of Wydeford, in Hertfordshire, by Ivo de Grentesmaisnell. But as it is proved, by Domesday Book, that Hugh, the father of Ivo, possessed seven houses in Leicester in *right of the lordship of Andrætesberie*, there is still some ambiguity about this exchange; Nichols thinks that, as Ivo's name only occurs in a confirmation grant, the original exchange was made with Hugo de Grentesmaisnell. The words of the Confirmation of Henry I., reciting the different donations to Bermondsey Priory, are:—"Wydeford quam commutavit cum monachis de Bermundseia Ivo de Grentesmaisnell, pro Andrætesberyâ quam dederat eis Willielmus de Belmeis."

Grentemaisnell's having possessed that part of the Forest adjoining Alderman's Haw—the Haw itself having been in the patronage of the Priory—and an Inquisition subsequently to be noticed, together, perhaps, with some long-entertained tradition, are the chief reasons for concluding that the now lost *Andrætesberie* was, at least, in the vicinity of Alderman's Haw.—The quest of the inquisitors in the case to be referred to, having, so far as can be ascertained, been directed solely to the Haw, is a proof that the Church of *Andrætesberie* was believed, in the fifteenth century, to have stood in or near that locality.

I have attempted, in the chapter devoted to the Antiquities of the Forest, to show the probable origin of the name of *Andrætesberie*, by supposing that, on the remarkable rock near Baldwin Castle, which overlooks the Haw, an idol or temple of *Andrate*, or *Andraste*, may have stood. As that Druidical goddess was, in all likelihood, worshipped on some part of Charnwood, this derivation is by no means strained. Nothing but the name of Bawdon or Baldwin Castle remaining, and history being entirely silent about it, is another ground for the hypothesis that this neighbourhood was, at one time, of considerable consequence. It is not even unreasonable to conclude, that some Saxon Ealderman, or Alderman, may have inclosed the Haw adjoining, and given it its name. There are certainly more

rational grounds for this origin than the fanciful reasoning given in Nichols, who imagined that Aylwin Child, the founder of the Monastery to which the Haw was given, might possibly have been an Alderman; and that the place was so called from him. Unfortunately for this supposition, it does not appear that Aylwin had the slightest connexion with the spot, and that he was an Alderman appears by no means certain.

Hugh de Grentesmaisnell died in 1094, and his son Ivo joining the rebellion against Henry I., was obliged to take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, from which he never returned: but before his departure, with the view of securing his possessions from confiscation, he pledged them to Robert de Bellomont, Earl of Mellent and Leicester, who, on Ivo's death, became the actual possessor. At his death (1118) the Earl confirmed both Wydeford and Andraetesberie to the Monks of Bermondsey. Two years after this, Alderman's Haw was regularly conveyed by Ranulph, Earl of Chester, to Henry I., who re-granted it to Robert Bossu. At all events, both Andraetesberie and Alderman's Haw were at one time under the patronage of the Prior of Bermondsey; and in 1220, according to the Matriculus of Bishop Welles, the Priory was accustomed to have three Monks at the Haw. It had, however, ceased to have any resident religious long before the Dissolution.

About the middle of the fifteenth century, a dispute arose between the Abbot of Leicester (claiming, either from some grant of Robert Bossu, or from the place being in the parish of Barrow) and the Prior of Bermondsey respecting this spot. The Prior alleged *there had been a parish Church here*, with a font for baptism, and also a right of burial. On this a view was taken, and the examiners, after diligent search, answered, that they "could perceive no Church, nor any remaining foundations of walls of a Church, in Alderman's Haw; but rather," to use their own words, "cujusdam heremetorii, bovarii, sive ovilis"—(the walls of some hermitage, ox-house, or sheep-cote)—"nor had there been any font for baptism." And the Prior of Bermondsey was denied to have any right to the said place, or to any tithes or dues proceeding from it.*

Now Mr. Nichols thinks that it was possibly the parish Church of Andraetesberie which the Prior was in quest of,† in the district; and that this Church, in the ruinous civil wars between 1220 and the time at which the view was taken (about 1450), might have been completely destroyed.‡

* These Inquisitions were often, in the middle ages, most iniquitous proceedings; see the first note of page 66, respecting one at Monntsorrel. The Abbot of Leicester would, in this case, have the same advantage which the King had in that.

† The Prior, no doubt, wanted to find a *parish* Church, that he might establish a right to tithes in the district, which the Inquisition denied him.

‡ Gilbert Wakefield confutes the assertors of the non-existence of Troy, on account of the site having been obliterated, by mentioning the following fact, "of ocular and personal experience:"—"When I was at school, in 1776, Flawford Church, about five miles from Nottingham, was in a ruinous state, but the burial service was occasionally performed in it by my master. I have been several times in the Church to see some ancient monuments of Crusaders, mentioned by Thoroton. To prevent accidents, the Church was entirely demolished: and in 1781 or 5, when I went, with two others, to contemplate the spot where the romantic pile had stood, well as I knew the place, we could only ascertain it, after much diligent speculation, by the protuberant lines marking the main walls."—*Life of G. W.*, p. 105, *Vol. 2.*

There are some expressions in the report of the Inquisition (a copy of which will be found given in the Appendix) which may throw some further light on the place.

Thomas ate Reghos, the chief inquisitor, is therein styled "*Major villa*:" a term which Nichols justly considers remarkable. The *villa* in which Alderman's Haw, and, in consequence, Andraetesberie were situated, was* Barrow. The questmen, therefore, as residents in that parish, may be concluded to have been more desirous to favour the Abbot of Leicester than the Prior of Bermondsey, and for that reason to have confined their inquiry to the strict letter of their instructions—that is, *solely* to Alderman's Haw.

Further, it may be inferred from the report, that the Prior of Bermondsey had certainly been informed that there were remains of the walls of a Church plainly to be seen in that neighbourhood (*parietibus nunc ibidem existentibus et palàm apparentibus*). The conclusion at which I arrive from all this is, that the Prior of Bermondsey, at the time when the revenues of the Priory began to decline (which we have express evidence was the case about the period of the Inquisition), began to look closely into the Register; and finding mention of Andraetesberie, and making further inquiries about it, was told of the remains of walls existing near Alderman's Haw, viz.:—those described in the plan of Beacon Hill. The Haw having been known to have been an old religious foundation, led him, probably, to conclude at once that the site of the lost Church was there. Hence the express direction of the search to Alderman's Haw. It is singular, that though nearly four centuries have elapsed since the Inquisition alluded to, there is one spot amongst the many foundations of walls on Beacon side, which might easily be imagined to be the ruins of a Church.

Another discovery, not noticed in my previous description of this hill, seems to favour the idea, that at one period there were many inhabitants located on the ground where these singular foundation walls are situated.—A hollow and *much worn* ancient road diverges from what I take to have been the Saltway, a little above Woodhouse Eaves, and leads, by a gentle sweep, to the very point which appears to have been the entrance of this ancient village.

The whole, then, of these speculations, may perhaps amount to this:—that Beacon Hill, instead of Baldwin Castle Hill, may have held the idol of Andrate—that an ancient British village was early erected below—that the Romans, Saxons, or Danes, took possession of, and strengthened this commanding station—that a hill so remarkable, both from its altitude and extent, must have had a name previously to the erection of the Beacon—that no such name is now known—and that it was, in all probability, the ancient Andraetesberie. The erection of a Christian Church on the site of Druidical or Roman idolatry, and its destruction in a neighbourhood so likely to have been the scene of war, will not appear either unaccountable or unreasonable.†

* Quatuor homines (sive liberi sive rustici) de eádem.—*Hoveden*, page 783.

† An elevated site, like the one this would have been, seems to have been, by the early founders, as generally chosen for Churches, as a low one was for Monasteries. Thus Breedon, Tilton, and several others in this county, are located on the boldest prominences in their respective neighbourhoods.

CHARLEY.

*(Charnley, Cerneley, Cernelega.)*In Cernelega, 4 carucate terre. Vasta est. Require precium.—*Domesday, folio 237.*

The western portion of Barrow lordship is comprised by the extra-parochial hamlet of Charley. This secluded domain appears, after having been in cultivation, to have returned, so early as the period of the compilation of Domesday Book, to the state of open Forest. The wood of Challenge has been before shown to have occupied a large portion of it; which agrees with Nichols' assertion that it was at one time surrounded by a thick wood. It formed a part of the possessions of Hugh Lupus and continued in the family of the Norman Earls of Chester until that remarkable covenant, already referred to under Mountsorrel, between Ranulph de Meschines and Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester. As a part of this covenant, Earl Ranulph granted to the said Earl and his heirs "the Lordship of Cerneley and all the woods adjacent thereto, adjoining to his Forest of Leicester, as well those of his fee as his own proper woods, excepting his Park at Barrow, to hold and enjoy the same *as Forest*, in as ample a manner as he held the Forest of Leicester of the King."*

Robert Bossu dying in 1168 Charley descended to his son, Robert Blanchmaines, Earl of Leicester, who in the reign of Henry II. built in this most quiet vale a small Priory and dedicated it to the Virgin. He placed in it three Friars Eremites of the Order of St. Augustine.†

The Priory seems at first to have belonged to that of Luffield, Northamptonshire, which Robert Bossu had founded in 1120; for, to a grant to that place he adds, "*et de aliâ terrâ de Cerneleia tantum ad edificandum quantum ego convenienter considerabo per consilium amicorum meorum.*" From this it may be conjectured that Blanchmaines, in founding the Priory, merely complied with his father's wishes on the subject.

The Matriculus of Bishop Hugh Welles (1220)‡ shows that the Church of Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreke was in the patronage of the Prior of Charley, who received from the Vicar of that Church an annual pension of three shillings *ab antiquo*. In 1334§ the Prior was not only Patron but held it "in propriis usus."

Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton, about 1210, conveyed to Robert de Ibstoke a house at

* So states Dugdale; but it would appear by the following record, that Ranulph, in order to make assurance doubly sure, formally conveyed these places to King Henry I., who re-granted them to Bossu:—"Henricus, Dei gratiâ, rex Angliæ & dux Normannie, archiepiscopis, episcopis, &c. salutem. Sciatis quia Ranulphus comes de Cestriâ dimisit & concessit mihi habere in dominio Cernelegam, & Cernewodam, & Alderman-hagam, in defenso, sicut aliquod defensum cariûs habeo, et omnia nemora que fuerunt de feodo comitis de Cestriâ, que attingunt forestam Legrecestrie, preter parcum suum, habere in defenso, de wastâ & de bestiâ salvagiâ: sicut autem predictus comes Ranulphus mihi hæc dimisit et concessit, ita et ego concedo Roberto comiti Legrecestrie habere hereditabiliter, cum alio feodo suo; & volo & præcipio ut benè & quietè & honorificè teneat, cum omnibus consuetudinibus suis. Testibus Theobaldo comite Blesense, & Gualerano comite de Mellento, & Willielmo de Tano, & Nigello de Albini, & Willo de Lurica, & Adamo de Portu, & Pagano filio Joh' & Gaufrido filio Pagani, & Andrea de Baldement & Roberto de Donestan-villâ. Apud Haveringas."

† Tanner, page 241.

‡ Nichols, Vol. I., p. lx.

§ Ibid, p. lxxvii.

Donington-on-the-Heath, which had been held by Gilbert de Seis, under *William*, then Prior of Charley.* He obtained Charley by his marriage with Margaret, sister and co-heiress of Robert de Bellomont, Earl of Leicester.

His son, Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton and Constable of Scotland, was the next possessor. He procured, in 1246, a confirmation grant, and in 1270 died seised of the advowson of the Priory.†

In the following year it was found that Eleanor de Vaux, daughter of William de Ferraris, Earl of Derby, the third wife and relict of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton, held the advowson of Charley and Ulverscroft in dower.‡

The Priory now obtained a new benefactor in the person of Sir William de Ferraris, Knight, brother to the Countess of Winton: who, on the death of his father, became seated at Groby, and took great interest in the religious establishments in the neighbourhood. Some of his benefactions to this Priory were noticed in page 19.

After the death of Eleanor de Vaux, Charley became one of the possessions of the renowned Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, through his marriage with Elizabeth,§ one of the co-heiresses of Roger de Quincy. To give the reader some idea of the manner in which this marriage was brought about, as well as to clear up some prevailing misconceptions respecting the connexion of this remarkable Scotch family with the Forest, it will be necessary to go somewhat at length into subjects but slightly bearing on the History of Charnwood.

The probability of a disputed succession to the throne of Scotland having early suggested to Edward I. some hopes of being able to annex that country to the English Crown, that politic Prince took every possible mode to league the most powerful Scotch Barons in his interest. The Comyns, Earls of Buchan and Badenoch, from the extent of their estates and their personal influence were, perhaps, inferior to no family in Scotland. To bind these by grants and kind offices was therefore soon a part of Edward's plans. Elizabeth Quiney, daughter of Roger, was, with her sister Margaret, one of the richest co-heiresses in the kingdom. The Sovereign, in feudal times, had the disposal of all heiresses in marriage, on the plea that women were incapable of performing to the Sovereign the military service by which their lands were held.|| Nothing, therefore, was more easy than for Edward to

* Two of the subscribing witnesses to this deed were Richard Sarascene and Robert Sarascenus—names, doubtless, derived from the Crusades, and still frequently found in the neighbourhood of the Forest, in the abbreviated form—Sarson.

† Rentale.

‡ Nichols (Vol. III., p. 121) says, "and Charnwood"—which is absurd. In p. 1086, he says correctly, "in dower."

§ Nichols (West Goscote, p. 121) erroneously calls Alexander Comyn's wife *Helen*, who was, in fact, wife of Alan Lord Galloway, as he had elsewhere stated. English Historians seem greatly at fault about this Elizabeth. Burton (page 281) mistaking a passage in Leland, who seems equally to have mistaken another in the Scala-Chronicon, says, "This Elizabeth, at the time when Robert Bruce, having slain John Lord Comyn, of Bodenaugh, proclaimed himself King of Scotland, crowned the said Robert Bruce at Scone, *her son* Alexander being then absent in England, at his manor of Whitwick, to whom that office, by inheritance, appertained!" It will be shown, further on, that it was not Elizabeth, daughter of Roger de Quincy, and that the office did *not* appertain to *her son*.

|| On the same pretence, if the heir to a feudal tenure was abroad at the time of his father's death, the estate, and even the title, were often granted to the next brother. One instance of this has been given before, in the first note to page 22.

reward the Earl of Buchan for some past services, and insure his readiness for future ones, than by allying him with the English nobility, and giving him a large stake in the country, through the possessions that would accrue. Elizabeth, therefore, *with the Royal sanction*, soon became Countess of Buchan.

Alexander III., King of Scotland, was killed by a fall from his horse, March, 1285-6 His leaving no issue, and his sister, the Queen of Norway, dying the same year, leaving only an infant daughter, commonly called the Maiden of Norway—who was grand-niece to Edward, gave fresh vigour to the English King's long-cherished designs with regard to Scotland. He proposed a marriage between the Maiden and his eldest son; and though there were some terms in this treaty highly objectionable to the Scottish Regency, their scruples were overcome by Comyn, who was, in fact, one of the Regents, and the marriage treaty was signed at Brigham, June 18th, 1290.

The premature death of the Maid of Norway frustrated one hope of Edward, but only to give birth to another. He immediately saw his opening in the numerous competitors that now asserted their claims to the Scottish throne, and calmly calculated on appropriating "the Lion's share."

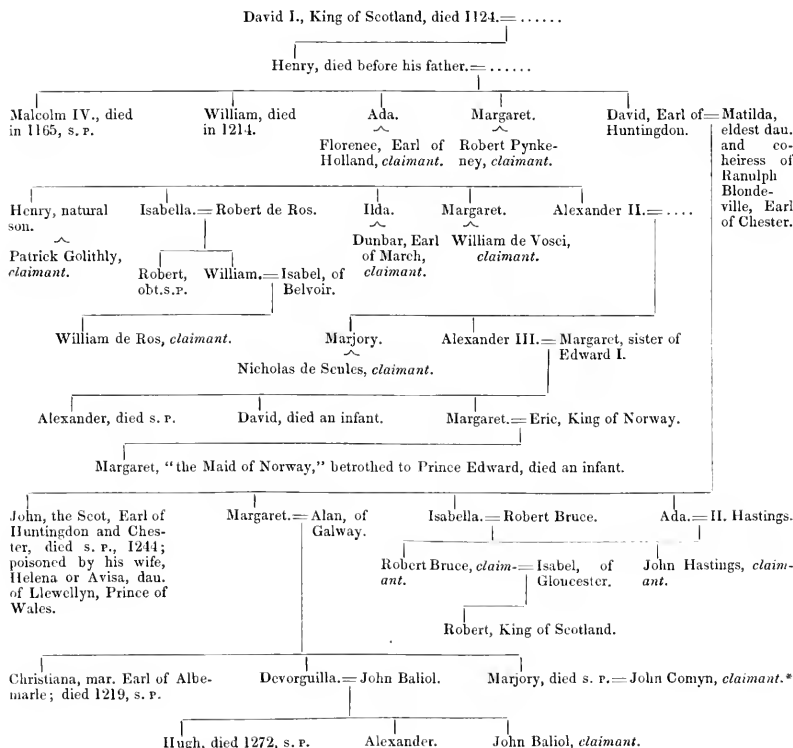
The origin of this diversity of claim is extremely simple. William the Lion, who succeeded to the Crown in 1165, had a brother, David, Earl of Huntingdon. In 1214, William transmitted the Crown to his son, Alexander II., who was succeeded by his son, Alexander III., in 1249. Failing, therefore, the descendants of this Monarch, the Crown reverted to the posterity of David, Earl of Huntingdon. By referring to page 12, it will at once be seen that the issue of this Earl's marriage with Matilda, sister of Ranulph de Blondeville, were:—1. Margaret, married to Alan, Lord Galloway, whose daughter Dervorgoil married John Baliol, and bore to him another John Baliol. 2. Isabella, married to Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale, whose son was a competitor for the Crown. 3. Matilda, s. p. 4. Ada, married to *Henry* de Hastings, *grandfather* of John de Hastings, the third competitor. Besides these, as will be seen by the Pedigree, given in a note on the following page, there were many other claimants.

Edward, who was the referee or mediator in this dispute, chosen by the recommendation of John Comyn, Earl of Buchan (Alexander, his father, had lately died), decided in favour of Baliol, or rather declared himself Lord Paramount, and Baliol his deputy. On Baliol's resignation—brought about by the contumelious conduct of the English King, and a suspicion of his latent intentions—Bruce expressed hopes of being allowed to supply his place. "What!" said Edward, "have we nothing to do but to conquer kingdoms for you?"

Amongst the principal claimants after Baliol were Robert, grandson of the first claimant of that name, and John Comyn, of Badenoch, commonly called the Red Comyn. Both these powerful Barons had taken part with William, but after the defeat at Falkirk, with the hope of preserving their English estates, both had submitted to Edward, and even borne arms against their countrymen.

Bruce, who in early life seems to have had no fixed principles, subsequently made overtures to Comyn to join in a common effort to expel the usurper, and afterwards settle the sovereignty between themselves. This John Comyn, whose mother was Marjory Baliol,

sister of the King of Scotland, and who was by his marriage (for he, too, had been provided for by Edward) connected with the royal family of England, is represented as a person of designing and treacherous character, and under an exterior of the most finished dissimulation, and with manners polished to the highest degree of refinement, concealing all the worst features of the feudal character. He hated Bruce for his success in retaining Edward's favour, while he himself had endured royal frowns, and been heavily mulcted. He accordingly laid a letter from Bruce before the King. Edward for a while doubted Comyn's information but resolved to probe the matter to the bottom. In order, therefore, to ensure Bruce's presence in London, unforwarned by any suspicion that his overtures had been betrayed, the King convoked a Parliament, to which he summoned Bruce as Earl of Carrick. Ignorant of Comyn's treachery he attended without scruple. Edward, anxious to



* John Comyn claimed as the descendant of Donald VII. and not as husband of Marjory de Galway.

judge of his guilt or innocence by the impression the unexpected charge might make upon him, turning suddenly to Bruce, asked if he knew the seal. With well-dissembled astonishment the Earl calmly replied that the letter was a forgery, and that though the seal was a good imitation, he could, if allowed a short interval to send for his seal, at once prove it, and offered to pledge his whole estates to prove the truth of his denial. The King was completely deceived by this seeming integrity, and gave him leave of absence from Parliament in order to procure the documents necessary to prove the forgery. But apprized by his kinsman, the Earl of Gloucester, he flew with all speed to Scotland, accompanied by a single attendant.*

On the borders of Scotland, encountering a person that appeared studious to avoid him, Bruce was determined to ascertain the cause; a sudden suspicion darting into his mind that the stranger's errand concerned himself. He immediately seized him and searching his person found fresh letters from Comyn, inclosing further detail of the conspiracy. To slay the unhappy envoy and to possess himself of the despatches was the work of a moment. Hastening with all speed to the Castle of Lochmaben, the residence of his brother Edward, he laid before him his discovery. It was then agreed to request an interview with Comyn. It happened, fortunately for Bruce, as explaining his sudden return to Scotland, that the English Justiciary was about to hold a Court at Dumfries: to which he, as Lord of Annandab, and Comyn, as Lord of Badenoch, were bound to attend. They met, by appointment, in the Chapel of the Grey Friars, at Dumfries, February 4, 1305; and it is probable, from the place fixed upon, that Bruce did not contemplate the horrid act which resulted and which, ever after, was a source of extreme bitterness to him. Bruce was accompanied by Sir Christopher Seton, Sir James Lindesay and Gilpatrick of Kirkpatrick. Comyn only by his brother, Sir Robert Comyn. They met with mutual embraces. Hemingford says they kissed each other; and their attendants having retired outside, they walked up to the high altar, where Bruce probably thought he should elicit the truth. He at once accused his associate of having betrayed him to Edward. "It is a falsehood you utter," said Comyn, and Bruce, without another word, instantly stabbed him with his dagger. He fell on the steps of the altar; and Bruce, alarmed at the atrocity, hurried to his friends on the outside. "Is all well?" said Seton, observing unusual agitation in the looks of Bruce. "Well or ill," replied the latter, "I know not—but I doubt I have killed Comyn." "And is that a thing to be left in doubt?" cried Gilpatrick. "I shall make surer work." Upon which, with Seton and Lindesay, he ran back into the Church; and finding Comyn still breathing, and supported by the Monks, who had removed him behind the screen of the altar, they barbarously despatched him with repeated wounds! slaying, at the same time, his gallant brother, vainly endeavouring to defend him. Bruce's course was decided by this shocking act. He immediately commenced that extraordinary career which has linked such military glory with his name. He was crowned King of Scotland at Scone, in March, 1306; and now occurs another event, which, to those considering the recent slaughter of Comyn, will appear as strange as it was romantic.

* Wynton's Chronicle, Vol. II., page 120.

The Countess of Buchan, the wife of the young Alexander Comyn,* who had succeeded his brother John, eloping from her husband, at Charley (whither he had fled out of the way of Bruce), and bringing her war horses and a train suited to her rank, arrived in Scotland, reached Scone two days after Bruce's coronation, and instantly demanded that the ceremony should be repeated. She claimed, in fact, the hereditary right, as a descendant of Macduff, of placing the King on the throne. Bruce at once complied with the request, and the repetition of the ceremony infused fresh energy into his followers. A most ungenerous and ungallant act of our exasperated Edward towards this high-spirited woman must not be omitted here. Having fallen into the hands of the English soldiers, she was roughly conveyed to the Castle of Berwick. On an outer turret of this Castle Edward immediately caused a cage of wood and iron to be erected, and in this singular prison, most strictly guarded, and forbidden to hold communication with any one but the woman to whose keeping she was intrusted, did this high-spirited lady continue for four years! "Suspended," says an English Historian, "as a spectacle of eternal disgrace to all passers by." There was one other person, at least, equally disgraced by this refinement of cruelty. But treachery or cruelty characterised almost every act of this heartless usurper in Scotland. One of the first acts of his son, ashamed of this barbarity in his relentless father, was to remove the Countess of Buchan to the Monastery of Mount Carmel.

The slaughter of the Earl of Badenoch, at Dumfries, had naturally roused the vengeful feelings of all the Comyns, and probably Alexander Comyn's hatred of Bruce was considerably augmented by the desertion of his wife. Hearing of Bruce's illness, at Slaines, he advanced against him with a powerful body, composed of English and his own retainers, and with that fury which hatred and revenge were so calculated to inspire. Bruce, all worn as he was by disease and privations, felt all his energy re-kindled by the news of his own nephew, Sir David de Brechin, being leagued with Comyn; and ordering his armour and war-horse, neither of which he had used for many months, he was lifted into the saddle, and, supported by a soldier on each side, headed himself the onset on Comyn. The consequence, says Tytler, was a total rout of the forces of the latter—the retreat of their discomfited leader into England, and his shortly subsequent death—I believe, at Charley.

But Bruce's hostility to the Comyns did not stop here. He conducted his army into their extensive Highland district, Buchan, wasted it with fire and sword, and committed such indiscriminate havoc that for fifty years afterwards men talked with horror of the hanging or depopulation of Buchan.†

It may give the reader a fair idea of the cruelty of the then prevalent system of warfare, to say, that thirty of the family of Comyn were beheaded in one day and buried in one

* Nichols, in the Quincy, Comyn, and Beaumont Pedigree, omits the names of the wives of both John and Alexander Comyn (the sons of Alexander Comyn and Elizabeth de Quincy). The wife of the latter, however, as may be seen in Mr. Fraser Tytler's valuable History of Scotland (from which I glean much of the above account) was Isabella, sister of the Earl of Fife. *Her brother* was of the English party, and consequently Bruce's first coronation had lacked that part of the ceremony always performed by the descendants of Macduff.

† Barbour, in his "Bruce," says:—

"That efter that weil fifty yer
Men menynt the herschip of Bowchane."

grave. Scott (Tales of a Grandfather) says the spot was marked by a stone inscribed "THE GRAVE OF THE HEADLESS COMYNS."

The foregoing account—not wholly irrelevant, it is hoped—will explain what I have often found very imperfectly understood, viz.: that it was *not* Comyn of Buchan—our Forest Comyn—but his relative of Badenoch, who was Bruce's victim; and that it was *not* Elizabeth de Quiney, Countess of Buchan (as has often been supposed), but Elizabeth or Isabella, daughter of the Earl of Fife, and wife of Elizabeth de Quiney's son Alexander, who re-crowned Bruce at Seone and suffered the shameful punishment of being confined in a cage.

In 1306, Alan la Zouch (husband of Helen, at whose house at Tranent Eleanor de Ferrars was staying when carried off by Douglas) confirmed to the Prior of Charley a message at Sheepshed, the Milneleghs juxta Charley and thirty acres of land there.*

Three years after this William de Segrave was elected Prior; the permission of Sir William de Ferrars having been first obtained.†

In 1346, the Prior (on the aid granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock) was assessed for half a quarter of one Knight's fee, in Charley, parcel of the Honour of Winton.‡

In 1371, Sir William de Ferrars, of Groby, Knt., died seised of the advowson.

In 1383, Richard Hatley was presented to the Priory by Richard II., as guardian of the lands, and heir of Sir Henry de Beaumont, Knight, deceased; and in the next year, John Lord Beaumont, the heir mentioned, had livery of his lands.§

In 1387, Sir Henry de Ferrars, of Groby, Knight, held, at his death, the advowson: and six years afterwards, Joan, his widow, died, having held the advowson in dower, of the King, by Knight's service.||

In 1444, Sir William de Ferrars of Groby, Knight, died seised of the advowson; and in 1457, Edward de Grey, Knight, Lord Ferrars of Groby, was seised of it. It was then valued at five marks. Sir John Bourehier, Knight, who married Elizabeth, widow of Edward Lord Ferrars, consented, in 1465, with his Lady, to the union of this Priory with that of Ulverscroft.¶

For the tithes of sheaves and hay, in Oldfield, Dunthorne-hill, and the old Birehwoide (parts of Charley situated in Barrow) a composition of 6s. 8d. had been paid by the Prior of Charley to the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, in Leicester, ever since 1307; and after the union it was agreed, as appears from Charlye's Rentale, that the Prior of Ulverscroft should in future pay this composition.**

Oldfield and Long-wong, together sixty acres, were in 1466 demised by Sir Thomas de Erdington, of Barrow, Knight, to the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, Leicester,

* Esch., 34 Edward I., No. 187. † Reg. Dalderby, Ann. 9. ‡ Rot. Aux., 20 Edward III.

§ Rex præsentat Ricardum Hatley ad prioratum de Charley, Linc. dioc. ratione custodis terrarum et hæredis Henrici de Beaumont, chevalier, defuncti.—*Pat. 6 Ric. II.*, p. 1.

|| Esch. 17 Richard II., No. 24, Leic.

¶ Dr. Hutton, ex Libro Memorandorum temp. Johannis Chedworth, Episcopi Lincoln.

** 6s. 8d. was paid as a pension to the Bishop of Lincoln, from the Priory of Charley.

for a term of forty years, on the annual rent of one red rose—a tenure which, as Nichols suggests, arose from the political principles of the granter; and it is remarkable that the grant continued till the very year of the restoration of the House of Lancaster.

Thomas Massey, Clerk of the Priory of Ulverscroft, was the last Priest who celebrated mass at Charley.

Sir Andrew Judd* afterwards purchased, from the Crown, a lease of Charley, and soon transferred it to Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk (beheaded in 1553). After this a capital mansion called Charley, with waters, royalties, &c., belonging to it, which had formed part of the possessions of Ulverscroft Priory, were leased to William and Richard Standish, for a fine of £50. and an annual rent of £9. 19s. 4d., for the term of eighty years.

It is not quite clear how Charley came into the hands of its next possessor, Mr. Bennett Wilson, who sold it to Henry Turvile, Esq., of Aston Flamvile—who sold it, about 1605, to his relative, Sir Richard Waldron, Knight. Sir Richard died here, February 16, 1617, seised of the lordship. His eldest son, Thomas (afterwards knighted) died seised of it, January 11, 1627-8, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Viscount Beaumont, Thomas, son and heir, aged three years and a half—three other sons, Edward, Charles, and Richard, and one daughter, Mary, afterwards wife of Thomas Farnham, Esq., of the Nether Hall, Quorndon.† The last Thomas (afterwards knighted) was the owner in 1647. His daughter Frances married her cousin, Thomas Farnham, Esq.

In 1689, Thomas Cosyn, Esq., of Hillesley, Gloucestershire, died Lord of the Manor of Charley, aged eighty-eight. He married Frances, eldest daughter of William Trye, of Hardwick, Gloucestershire, great-grandson of John Trye, Esq., whose wife was Elizabeth, one of the co-heiresses of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

Charley afterwards became the property of George Wrighte, Esq., of Gothurst, Buckinghamshire, son of Sir Nathan Wrighte, of Brookesby, the Lord Keeper.‡ From Mr. Wrighte, the manor, with all its rights and privileges, was purchased, about 1770, by John Vickers, Esq.; from whom, by a marriage with his daughter Mary, it descended to George Bosworth, Esq., of Brampton, whose grandson is the present possessor.

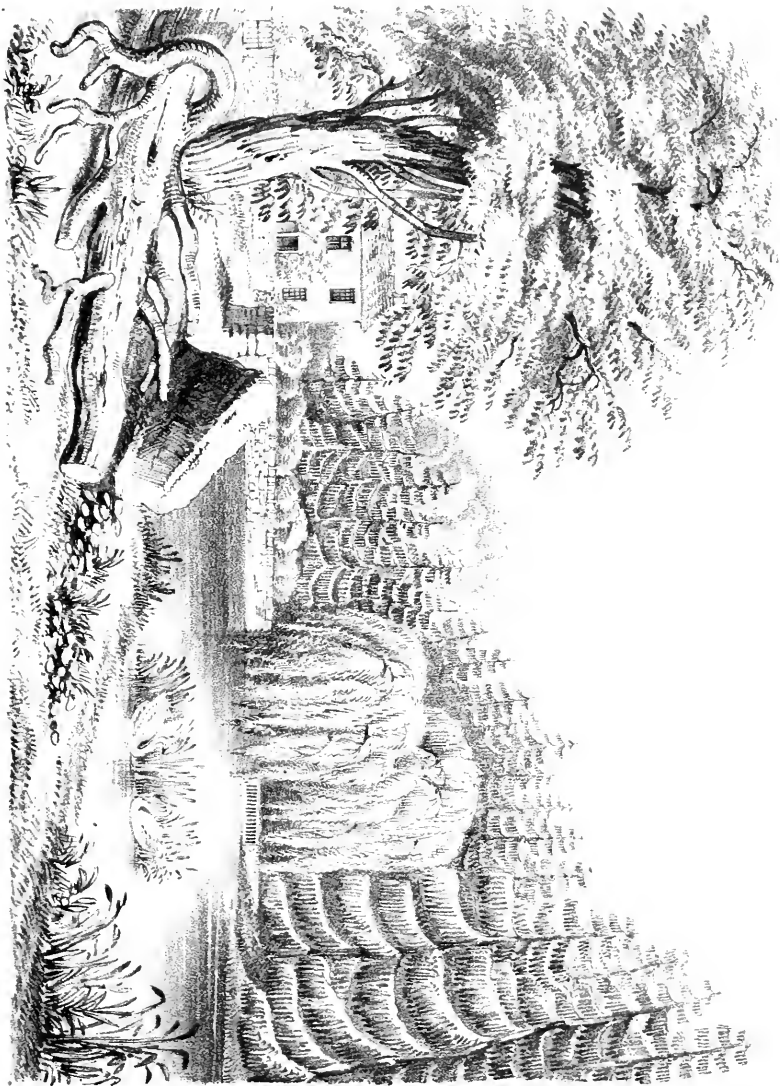
Doubts have frequently been expressed whether the Earl of Buchan actually erected any mansion at Charley. It has even been supposed that he merely occupied a part of the Priory. This supposition seems hardly reconcileable with the name long applied to the place—*Erlshall*§—or with some appearances of ancient foundations distinct from the Priory; neither is it probable that a small religious house, erected for only three Friars Eremites, should afford accommodation for such a person as the Earl of Buchan. Extensive artificially-formed mounds and terraces (rarely the accompaniments of a Monastic foundation) still to be traced, afford further reason for concluding that the Earl's Hall, though very near to the Priory, was, in fact, a distinct and a much larger edifice. The foundations of a circular building, probably a tower, are still perceptible on the western side of the lake, and here, I conjecture, the ancient Hall stood. So late as 1553, as appears

* Lord Mayor of London in 1550.

† One of this lady's daughters was married to Henry Waldron, Esq., of Farnham Castle, Co. Cavan, Ireland.

‡ His sister Dorothy married Harry Grey, third Earl of Stamford. § So called in Charyte's Rentale.

CHARLEY HALL.

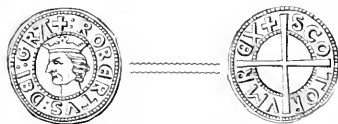


from what has already been stated, Sir Andrew Judd had a "capital mansion" here. Whether this could have been that erected by Comyn, cannot be ascertained. The house, in the time of the Waldrons, was evidently one of no mean pretensions.*

The present house, called Charley Hall, is evidently an erection of the last century. It may be then that Whitwick Castle, another possession of the Comyns, becoming untenanted, or the quiet little glen of Charley, and the spiritual comfort to be derived from the holy Monks, presenting to Comyn (long harassed by the factions in Scotland) a more congenial retirement, that he then erected the mansion called the Earl's Hall. Be this as it may, I cannot believe that such a name could possibly have originated from the mere occupancy of rooms in the Priory; and a careful examination of the place itself, and of the records connected with it, can scarcely fail to impress any one that the Hall was a separate mansion. However, whether contemplated as an ancient monastic foundation, or as the residence of the Comyns and many other distinguished persons, Charley is a place of great interest to the topographer, the tourist, and the antiquarian. Embosomed, as it once was, in majestic woods, with the Priory and Earl's Hall as its centre, it must at one time have been the *Chartreuse* of the Forest; even now, the scene is full of beauty. The lake—the streamlet that feeds it—the remaining woods and rocks, and the few farm houses and cottages that form the hamlet, render the little dell one of the most charming spots imaginable.

Several stone coffins, and I believe one of lead, have been discovered at various times near the spot on which the Priory stood. One was taken up from beneath the floor of Mr. Orgill's kitchen, a very short time ago. A spot very near is called the Giants' Graves. The coin of Robert Bruce, engraved below, now in my possession, was found in making a drain near the Hall. The locality in which it was discovered renders it historically valuable.

Mr. Mackay, who published a "Tour through England" in the time of George I., says, "by the coats of arms in the windows of most of the Churches in this county, and some old monuments, I perceived that great, noble, and ancient families, had their residence here: and was particularly pleased at Loughborough and *Charley*, to see the arms of Comyn, Earl of Buchan, to whom Edward I. gave the lordship of Charley, with a Forest twenty miles' circumference, for his assistance to his designs in Scotland, and married to one of the co-heiresses of Roger de Quincy * * * but the family being entirely rooted out of Scotland by the Bruces, for their treachery to their native land, the son of the great Comyn retired to his estate at Charley: and having an only daughter, married her to Lord Beaumont, a great family in these days * * *. They inclosed *Beaumont Park*, in Charley Forest. They were pretty even with the Bruces for extirpating them from Scotland, for as Robert de Bruce was Earl of Huntingdon before he was King of Scotland, and that county joining this, the Comyns plagued the Bruces so that they were forced to change their names to Cotton."



* A gentleman informs me that he finds, in the note-book of an ancestor, accounts of sums of money lost at cards, at Charley, to Lord Swords, brother-in-law to Sir Thomas Waldron.

GROBY.

(Grooby, anciently Grobi.)

Hugo de Grentemaisnell tenet in Grobi 6 carucatas terre, 3 bovatis minus. Terra est 4 carucarum. In dominico sunt duæ; et 10 villani cum 1 sochmanno et 5 bordariis: habent 3 carucas. Silva ibi 2 leucarum longitudinis et dimidiæ leucæ latitudinis. Valuit 20 solidos: modo 60 solidos. Ulf tenuit has 2 terras (Ratebi et Grobi) cum sacâ et socâ.—*Domesday, fol. 232, a. b.*

Here was an ancient Castel, whose walls, as I find in old records, were beaten down by commandment of Henry II. Here also had been a very faire Chappell, but all these goodly buildings are now ruined and gone.—*Burton.*

GROBY, the head of the second division adopted in the arrangement of the Parochial History of the Forest, is situated on the VIA DEVANA, in the parish of Ratby, and nearly in the centre of the tract lying between the Forests of Charnwood and Leicester. Its antiquity, its privileges, and its connexion with the noble families of Ferrars and Grey, render it a place of peculiar interest. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, six plough lands minus three oxgangs* with sac and soc, were held by Ulf and valued at twenty shillings. These, in Domesday book, were stated to be worth sixty shillings, and were then held by Hugh de Grentemaisnell, afterwards created by King William Rufus Baron of Hinckley and High Steward of England.

From Hugh Grentemaisnell this manor passed to Robert Blanchmaines, by his marriage with Petronella, daughter of Hugh. Robert Fitz Parnell, son of Blanchmaines, had two daughters, one of whom, Margaret, carried the manor by marriage to Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, to one of whose granddaughters it came as her portion of the inheritance when that noble family failed in the male line. She married William de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, and bestowed this manor on her second son William de Ferrars, who was in consequence created Baron of Groby by Edward I.†

The Baron paid the King a fine of forty marks, and held the lordship *in capite* by the accustomed services. He also assumed the arms of his maternal grandfather, Roger de Quincy, till the male line of the elder house (the Lord Ferrars of Chartley) became extinct. He married Joan, daughter of Hugh le Despenser, and had issue by her William his son and heir, and Anne, married to John Lord Grey of Wilton. He died in 1287, leaving his

* Yeoman, earle or vassal knave,
That was of wealth an ox to have,
He made them all to keep a plough,
So that the realme had corn enow,
And so arose from such command
That *oxgang* measure was of land.

The mightier and the wealthier peers
That herds of oxen had and steers,
Drove many ploughs, and hence appears
A ploughgate land for aye synsyne,
A certain measure was of kine.

Wynton.

† Groby est de feodo Wintoniæ, quæ est pars Leicestrie; et Dominus Wilhelmus de Ferrer tenet manerium de Groby, et habet in dominico tres carucatas terre in eadem et duo molendina aquatica et duo vivaria et *quatuor parca* * * *. Item partem bosci de Chernewode in quo est libera chacea. Et dictus Wilhelmus tenet, &c. * * * de dono Margarete de Ferrer, comitisse de Ferrer faciendo indè servitium debitum et consuetum: Habet etiam visum francipigii pertinens ad regale, retorna brevium, et omnes alias libertates, sicut et Comes Leicestrie.—*Inquisitio, 1279.*

son William, then aged seventecn, and Eleanor* his second wife surviving. The jurors found that the said William held the manor of Groby with the appurtenances, of the King *in capite*, by the service of half a Knight's fee, and that the capital messuage in Groby, with the gardens in Groby and Rathby, and dovecots, were worth yearly 20s. And there were at Groby 204 acres of demesne arable land, and at Burgh, which is part of the manor of Groby, four acres of arable land, every acre of which was worth yearly 6*d.*; also there were hadlands worth 2s.; 15 acres of meadow worth 30s.; and a piece of meadow called Ley Field worth yearly 40s.; also at Groby a Park, the pasture and pannage of which was worth yearly 66*s.* 8*d.*, and the underwood of the said Park was worth yearly 6*s.* 8*d.*; also at Bradgate a Park, the herbage and underwood whereof was worth yearly 40s.; also there were certain outwoods in the Forest of Charnwood, the pasture of which was common, and the pannage was worth 35*s.*; two pools, the fishing of which was worth yearly 40s., two mills upon the said pools worth 46*s.* 8*d.*; a rent of assize of the freeholders there, at three times in the year, of £7. 5*s.* 2*d.*; a rent of assize of the Forest of Charnwood of new grubbed up ground, of £7. 6*s.* 4*d.*; a rent of hens of the said Forest 9*s.*; five pounds of pepper, nine pounds of cummin seed, five pairs of gloves, one ounce of silk, one dozen of knots of kaledon, six dozen of iron arrows, one clove gillyflower, worth yearly 7*s.* 7*d.*; and also 43 vergerers, who held 43 yard lands and a half in villanage; 25 of which yard lands and a half pay yearly 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the 18 residue thereof pay yearly 10*s.*, making the sum of £26.; and every one of the said customary tenants ploughed once in the winter time and once in Lent with his neighbour, the lord finding them victuals, and every ploughing is worth 3*d.*; and every one of them gardened at the said seasons, and every gardening was worth 1*d.*; also the copyholders used to reap, cut, and carry the hay of 15 acres of meadow in Groby, the same being worth 4*d.*; and they used to mow and lay together the lord's demesne lands, which were reputed to be nine score and six acres, yearly, which service was valued at 62*s.*; also they used to carry the corn in the autumn, which was 6*s.* 8*d.*; there were two customary tenants who held two yard lands and paid yearly 26*s.* 8*d.*; cottagers who paid yearly 61*s.* 10*d.*; also there were 17 acres of arable land in Middleham, which the customary tenants farmed at 11*s.* 4*d.*; also the pleas and perquisites of the Court of Groby and Leicester, which was the share of the said William, were valued yearly at £8.

WILLIAM, the second Baron, was summoned to Parliament in 1293 as Baron Ferrars of Groby, and died in 1324, leaving his son Henry heir.

This HENRY married Isabel, youngest daughter and one of the co-heiresses of Theobald

* Mr. Fraser Tytler, generally so accurate in his facts, and other Historians seem at fault about this lady. Mr. Tytler appears to have considered her a *daughter* of Lord Ferrars. Her maiden name was Poynings. To this Eleanor (16 Edward I.) the King assigned the manors of Stubbing and Woodham Ferrars, Co. Essex, till she should have her dowry set forth. This being soon after assigned her (on her taking oath that she would not re-marry without license) she went into Scotland there to obtain her dowry of such lands as belonged to her. Being at Tranent (the Manor-house of her kinswoman Helen la Zouch in that realm) William de Douglas, the companion of Wallace, took her thence against her will and carried her to another place. On this, a complaint being made to Edward, he sent his precept to the Sheriff of Northumberland to seize the goods and chattels of the said William de Douglas which were then in that bailiwick. But shortly after (19 Edward I.), in consideration of £100. fine, the King granted Douglas the benefit of her marriage.—See *Dugdale's Baronage*, page 277.

de Verdon. He procured the privilege of a market at Groby, to be held every Friday, and a yearly fair on the eve and day of St. George and two days after, which grant is dated March 12, 1337-8, and dying in 1343 was succeeded by his son William.

This WILLIAM dying in 1371 the estate came to his son HENRY, who died in 1388, leaving a son WILLIAM, who died without issue male in 1444, his only son Henry having predeceased him. This Henry left an only daughter ELIZABETH, married to SIR EDWARD GREY, eldest son by the second wife (Joan, daughter and heir of William Lord Astley, of Broughton Astley) of Reginald de Grey, Lord Grey de Ruthyn, who in 1410 recovered in the Court of Chivalry against Sir Edward Hastings, the right to the name and arms of Lord Hastings. It is singular that, after a lapse of more than four hundred years, these families and honours should unite in the person of the present Earl of Rawdon, son of the Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings.

Edward Grey, Lord Ferrars of Groby, died December 18th, 1458, seised of the manor of Groby with the appurtenances, held of the King as of the honour of Tutbury, by the service of half a Knight's fee, and Sir John Grey, Knight, his son and heir, was then aged more than twenty-five years.* The inquisition states that Edward Grey, Lord Ferrars, held the manor of Groby, &c., in right of Elizabeth his wife, by the gift of Margaret de Ferrars to William her son, whose cousin and heiress the said Elizabeth was, viz. :—son of William the son of Henry—the son of William, son of the said William the son of the said Margaret.

The issue by the marriage of Edward Grey with the heiress of Groby were Sir John Grey, Knight, who married the celebrated Elizabeth Widvile or Woodville, Edward the second son (created Lord Lisle by Edward IV. in 1475, in right of his wife, daughter of Sir John Talbot, and sister and heir of Thomas Viscount Lisle, and advanced by Richard III. to the same dignity), Reginald and Anne.

Strongly attached to the House of Lancaster, Sir John Grey (for he is little known as Lord Ferrars—probably from his not surviving his mother) was slain at the battle of St. Albans, February 17, 1460). He left two sons—Sir Thomas Grey, who in 1460 succeeded as Lord Ferrars of Groby, and eleven years afterwards was created Earl of Huntingdon, and subsequently, viz. in 1475, Marquis of Dorset, K.G.—and Sir Richard Grey, whose melancholy fate we shall shortly have to record. The vicissitudes of their illustrious and high-minded mother seem first to require notice.

To trace Elizabeth Widvile from her girlhood, when she wrote that remarkable journal of her daily duties and daily feelings,† to her closing scene, would occupy too much space.

* Lady Ferrars survived her husband, Sir Edward Grey, and afterwards formed a second alliance with Sir John Bourchier, Knight.

† THURSDAY MORNING (May 10, 1451).—Rose at four o'clock, and helped Katherine to milk the cows: Rachael, the other dairy-maid, having scalded one of her hands in a very sad manner last night. Made a poultice for Rachael, and gave Robin a penny to get her something comfortable from the apothecary's. *Six o'clock.*—Breakfasted. The buttock of beef rather too much boiled, and the ale a little the stalest. Memorandum to tell the cook about the first fault, and to mend the second myself, by tapping a fresh barrel directly. *Seven o'clock.*—Went out with the Lady Duchess, my mother, into the court-yard; fed five and thirty men and women; chid Roger very severely for expressing some dissatisfaction in attending us with the broken meat. *Eight o'clock.*—Went into the paddock behind the house with my maiden Dorothy: caught Stump, the little black pony, myself, and rode a matter of six miles, without

A mere sketch must therefore suffice:—Daughter of the Duchess of Bedford by her second husband, Sir Richard Widvile, Elizabeth in her nineteenth year entered into an alliance of pure affection with Sir John Grey, and no period of her chequered life was perhaps so free from care as the few years she passed—chiefly at Groby—with the husband of her choice. After his untimely death, the overthrow of his party and the forfeiture of his estates, the situation of this widowed lady and her two youthful sons was one of extreme hardship. She was sojourning with her parents at Grafton, in Northamptonshire, when Edward IV., hunting in that neighbourhood, chanced to pay the Duchess a visit of respect: and the opportunity of presenting herself before the King, and entreating his pity for her impoverished and fatherless boys, seemed too good to lose. The sight of so much beauty, heightened by her diffidence and her tears, at once made way to the Monarch's too susceptible heart. He, in turn, became the suppliant, and his advances being repulsed with that dignity and propriety which inflexible virtue was sure to prompt, only served to bind him more closely in her chains. He that evening informed the Duchess that “the red rose had again been victorious.”

The marriage, very shortly after (May 1, 1464), was privately solemnized at Grafton, and not publicly avowed for some months. In the following year she was solemnly crowned at Westminster, and in 1466 obtained the King's license to complete the foundation of Queen's College, Cambridge, begun by the Queen of Henry VI. That Edward, during the nineteen years of their union, loved her with all the affection of which his volatile nature was capable, is shown by the gentle influence she exercised over him, and by the favours and dignities he conferred on her relatives. Her father, in the year after the marriage, was created Earl of Rivers, and this and other distinctions showered on her family appear to have given the Earl of Warwick and many of the old nobility great dissatisfaction, and to have been the source of much prejudice and rancour against the Queen. Her father and her brother John fell victims to this envious feeling, being summarily executed by the rabble headed by Sir John Conyers and Sir Henry Nevil, in 1468-9.*

either saddle or bridle. *Ten o'clock.*—Went to dinner. John Grey one of our visitants—a most comely youth—but what's that to me? A virtuous maiden should be entirely under the direction of her parents. John ate very little—stole a great many tender looks at me—said a woman never could be handsome, in his opinion, who was not good-tempered. I hope my temper is not intolerable; nobody finds fault with it but Roger, and Roger is the most disorderly serving man in our family. John Grey likes white teeth—my teeth are of a pretty good colour, I think, and my hair is as black as jet, though I say it—and John, if I mistake not, is of the same opinion. *Eleven o'clock.*—Rose from table, the company all desirous of walking in the fields. *John Grey would lift me over every stile, and twice he squeezed my hand with great vehemence.* I cannot say I should have any aversion to John Grey: he plays prisoners as well as any gentleman in the country, is remarkably dutiful to his parents, and never misses church of a Sunday. *Three o'clock.*—Poor farmer Robinson's house burnt down by an accidental fire. John Grey proposed a subscription among the company, and gave a matter of no less than five pound himself to this benevolent intention. Mem. *Never saw him look so comely as at that moment.* *Four o'clock.*—Went to prayers. *Six o'clock.*—Fed the poultry and hogs. *Seven o'clock.*—Supper at the table; delayed on account of farmer Robinson's fire and misfortune. The goose pie too much baked, and the loin of pork almost roasted to rags. *Nine o'clock.*—The company almost all asleep. These late hours are very disagreeable. Said my prayers a second time, John Grey disturbing my thoughts too much the first. Fell asleep about ten, and dreamt that John had come to demand me of my father.†

* Nichols states that it was the Northamptonshire men who committed this barbarous outrage on the Widviles: the Encyc. Lond. (Art. England) says the bad feeling of the populace against them was roused by their appropriation of the revenues of the Hospital of St. Leonard, at York.

The Queen herself was obliged, from the troubles of the times, to take sanctuary at Westminster two years after, and it was during her seclusion here that her son Edward was born. A few years of comparative quiet were now enjoyed by this illustrious Lady, but in 1483 it was suddenly interrupted by the King's death. Scarcely had the first gush of grief for her royal consort's departure abated, when her maternal sensibilities were called upon to endure most severe trials. The Protector seized her son, the young King, her brother, Lord Rivers, and her son by her previous marriage, Sir Richard Grey, and conveyed them to Pomfret Castle. On learning this painful intelligence, attended by her eldest son, the Marquis of Dorset, and taking with her the Duke of York and the five Princesses, she again sought the sanctuary of Westminster. Her sorrows were but in their commencement! She had now the affliction of losing by death the lovely Princess Mary, who had been betrothed to the King of Denmark. The Archbishop of Canterbury, won over by the Protector's cajolery, soon after induced her to surrender the Duke of York, on the specious pretext of his being wanted at his brother's inauguration. The Queen parted with him with undisguised reluctance, having a strong presentiment of his fate, and bedewing him with tears bade the almost heart-broken boy an eternal adieu! The cool-blooded assassination of her two near relatives, Sir John Grey and Lord Rivers, at Pomfret Castle, and that of her sons, the King and Duke of York, in the Tower, followed in quick succession. Well might she be,

“ Like Niobe—all tears.”

The marriage of her daughter the Princess Elizabeth, with Henry VII., might have been expected to restore her to her position and influence in society, but it did not. Henry, in fact, could never forgive some apparent vacillations in her conduct in having lent herself as an instrument to the abandoned Richard III., to procure a Papal dispensation for the marriage of the latter with that daughter whom the politic but heartless Henry had now made his Queen.*

For a short period after the battle of Bosworth Field, the Queen Dowager left her asylum at Westminster, but being condemned in a *præmunire* by her royal son-in-law, for this alleged consent to Richard's views, and on other frivolous charges, she was confined to the Monastery of Berrmondsey, where in 1492 she ended her varied and most eventful life, and at length found “ a quiet portion” beside the remains of her royal husband, in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor. Her last will, which appears to be a true transcript of her feelings, as well as a faithful description of her situation, is here given :—

Will of Elizabeth, Widow of Edward IV.

“ In Dei nomine. Amen. The xth daie of Aprill, the year of our Lord Gode MCCCCLXXXII.”

“ I Elisabeth, by the grace of God queene of England, late wif to the most victorouse prince of blessed memorie Edward the Fourth, being of hole mynde, seying the worlde

* It is asserted that the Queen Dowager, eager to recover her lost authority, neither scrupled at this proposed incestuous alliance, nor felt any horror at marrying her daughter to the murderer of her three sons and brother, and that she even wrote to her son, the Marquis of Dorset, and to all her partisans, desiring them to withdraw from the Earl of Richmond. But it is more than probable that Richard, steeped in guilt as he was, procured this seeming sanction by threats and promises with regard to her other children.

so transitorie, and no creature certayne whanne they shall departe frome hence, havynge Almyghty Gode fressh in mynde, in whome is all mercy and grace, bequeith my sowle into his handes; beseechyng him, of the same mercy, to accept it graciously, and our blessed Lady quene of comferte, and all the holy company of hevyn, to be good meanes for me. It'm, I bequeith my body to be buried with the bodie of my lord at Windessore, according to the will of my saide lorde and myne, without pompes entreing or costlie expensis donne thereabought. It'm, where I have no wordely goodes to do the quene's grace, my derest daughter, a pleaser with nether to reward any of my children, according to my hart and mynde, I besech Almyghty Gode to blisse her grace, with all her noble issue: and, with as good hart and mynde as is to me possible, I geve her grace my blessing, and all the forsaide my children. It'm, I will that suche smale stufe and goodes that I have be disposed truly in the contentacon of my dettes and for the helth of my sowle, as farre as they will extende. It'm yf any of my bloode wille any of my said stufe or goodes to me perteyning, I will that they have the preferente before any other. And of this my present testament I make and ordeyn myne executors, that is to sey, John Ingilby, priour to the Chartour-house of Shene, William Suttle and Thomas Brente, doctors. And I besech my said derest daughter, the quene's grace, and my sone Thomas marquis Dorsett, to putte there good wills and help for the performans of this my testamente. In witness whereof to this my present testament I have sett my seale; these witnesses, John Abbot of the monastery of sainte Saviour of Bernondesley, and Benedictus Cun, doctor of fysyk. Geven the day and yere abovesaid."

The other children of Elizabeth and Edward, not mentioned in the foregoing account, were Cicely, married to John Lord Wells; Anne, to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk; Catherine, to William Courtney, Earl of Devon; Margaret and George, who died infants, and Bridget, who became a Nun at Dartford.

I return to Elizabeth's son by her former marriage—the Marquis of Dorset. From this young nobleman's near relation to Edward V., the Usurper had procured his attainder, and had conferred his estates on his brother the Viscount Lisle. Having taken sanctuary, he privately quitted the country and fled to Bretagne, and subsequently joined the Earl of Richmond in Paris, where he assisted in devising the plan of the descent of the latter upon England. After the battle of Bosworth Field he was restored to his estates, but neither the services he had rendered the Crown nor his relationship to the Queen consort secured him from the jealousy of Henry, who committed him to the Tower: but shortly released, took him again into favour, and honoured him with the Garter. The Marquis afterwards rendered important services in the army. By his marriage with Cicely, daughter and heiress of William Bouville, Lord Harrington, he had seven sons: Edward and Anthony, who died young; Thomas, who succeeded him in his titles and estates; Richard, John, Leonard (Deputy of Ireland in 1536, beheaded in 1541), and George, a Clergyman; and eight daughters. This Marquis began some new works both here and at Bradgate. He died September 20, 1501.

Thomas, the second Marquis, took up his chief residence at Bradgate, preferring that situation both to Groby and Astley; I therefore reserve the remaining notices of this noble family for their more appropriate place, under Bradgate.

In "The laborious journey and serch of Johan Leylande for Englande's antiquities geven of hym as a newe yeare's gyfte to King Henry VIII. in the xxxvii yeare of his raygne"—is the following mention of Groby:—"From Brodegate to Groby a mile and a half much by Woddenlande. There remayne few tokens of the olde castelle more then that yet is the hille that the kepe of the castelle stode on—very notable but there is now no stone worke upon it. And the late Thomas [marquesh filled] up the diche of it [with earth, entending] to make a herbare there. The ould part of the worke that now is at Groby was made by the Ferrares. But newer workes and buildings *there** were erectid by the lorde Thomas first Marquis of Dorset: emong which workes he began and erected the fundation and waulles of a greate gate-house of brike and a tour but that was left onfinished of hym and so it stonidith yet. This lorde Thomas erectid also and almost finished ij toures of brike in the fronte of the house, as respendent on eche side to the gate-house. There is a faire large parke by the place a vi miles in cumpase. There is also a poore village† and a little broke by it. And a quarter of a mile from the place, in the botom, there is as faire and large a pole as lightly is in Leycestershire. There issueth a broket out of this lake that after *cammith by Groby* and dryvith a mylle and after resortith to Sore river."‡

No vestiges of the Castle of which Leland speaks are now visible, except perhaps the mount on which it stood, which rises about twenty feet above the level of the adjoining ground, and is of an oblong shape, sixty-two feet in length and forty in breadth: the moat or fosse which surrounded it is now filled up, though traces of it are still discernible on the north side. The Castle which stood on this mount, like most of the Norman Castles, must have consisted of a square or oblong tower or keep only: and as it was demolished by the command of Henry II., in 1176, it was probably one of those small Castles (exceeding in number eleven hundred) which were erected in all parts of the kingdom during the turbulent reigns of Stephen and his predecessors. It is however probable that, notwithstanding the destruction of the Castle, the Ferrars still continued to reside at Groby; for in the orchard adjoining the present mansion are the ruins of a wall and arched door-way, seemingly belonging to a more ancient edifice than the present house. Massive fragments and remains of mullioned windows are also lying about. These, from the shape and ornaments, evidently belonged to a period cotemporary with the present building. The house, as it now stands, is built partly of brick and partly of stone, with square-headed mullioned windows. The tower, which is described by Leland as having been left unfinished, still remains in the

* It is singular that after the word "*there*" Nichols adds, from Mr. Burton's transcript of Leland, "*at Brailgate*;" and, strange to say, arrives at the conclusion, "from personal inspection of the ruins at both places," that Bradgate was the place meant; though Leland's printed editions and manuscript have only the single word "*there*!" The wonder is, that any person having seen the two places, and compared them with Leland's description, could for a moment doubt that Groby was meant: or that Burton could interpolate, and Nichols adopt, words so utterly at variance with the description.

† Nichols erroneously supposes this to be Newtown Linford, instead of Groby. He appears to have been chiefly led wrong by the Park of "vi miles in compase;" forgetting, perhaps, that Groby had at one period *four* Parks.

‡ The description seems to show that in Leland's time the pool was of much greater extent. It probably extended nearly to Toot Hill.

same state; there are also two other towers in a more perfect state.* It is occupied by a highly respectable tenant of the Earl of Stamford, and the Courts of the Barony are still held in the old hall, which is very capacious and in excellent preservation. The ancient Chapel belonging to the mansion was once celebrated as a piece of beautiful architecture, but so mingled are the ruins that its precise site cannot now be correctly ascertained. Mr. Carte† mentions a tradition respecting a vaulted passage from the Castle to Bradgate. There is another respecting a similar subterranean communication with Leicester, and the villagers of Newtown Linford still give credence to the tradition of another with Ulverscroft Priory. "In these," adds Mr. Bloxam, "I can find no foundation except in that love of the marvellous so common in Roman Catholic times, and so peculiar to the lower classes of this kingdom."

Some facts which have come under my notice in the course of my researches into the Forest history, induce me to suppose that Charnwood and Leicester Forests were, at a very early period, one Forest: or if not, that they together embraced the whole tract which is now intermediate, and that the ancient Castle of Groby was *originally* rather a hunting tower than a baronial fortress.‡ One reason for such a conjecture is the Peculiar Exempt Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, never yet satisfactorily accounted for, which has from time immemorial appertained to Groby. This, I imagine, may possibly have originated in the following cause stated by Sir Henry Spelman:—"In agrorum dimensionibus Forestæ olim non veniebant. Perindè nec villas *proprie* accepere nec paræcias: nec de corpore alicujus comitatûs aut *Episcopatus*§ habitæ sunt." If, then, this conclusion is well founded, the origin of the Peculiar, and the absence of villages within the present boundaries of the Forest, will at once be explained.¶ The name of the village itself, which is derived from *Grove*, and the present woodland character of a great portion of this intermediate tract, parts of which, as Martenshaw, Sheet Hedges, &c., seem never to have been subdued, have also weight in leading me to hazard this opinion. There is another reason—Toot Hill is the name of a hill in the heart of the Forest near Charley; it is also the name of one near Groby. The word "Toot" signifies to peep—to spy—to watch. On these spots, in early

* From "A Description of Bradgate Park and the adjacent country," by the Rev. Andrew Bloxam, M.A., late Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford—an interesting little work, of which it is impossible to speak too highly.

† Carte's MS., British Museum.

‡ It is suggested to me by a gentleman to whom this conjecture has been submitted, that "the deed given under Charley, by which Ranulph de Meschines conveyed to King Henry I. Charnwood Forest and his woods adjoining Leicester Forest, shows that these Forests were distinct so early as the reign of that Monarch." If, however, as has before been shown, they were parts of the ancient Forest of Arden, this deed rather favours the idea of a previous subdivision than militates against it. See Addition to Groby in page 116 of this work.

§ Forests were not formerly reckoned in the admeasurement of lands: as they could not, properly speaking, contain either villages or parishes, or be member of any County or BISHOPRIC. "If tythes doe lye in any Forrest, as the Forrest of Windsor, Rockingham, Sherwood, &c., which is out of any parish, the King shall have them by his prerogative, and not the Bishop of the Diocesse or the Metropolitan."—*Hughes' Parson's Law*, p. 68. Ed. Lond. 1641.

¶ This absence of villages, and the assignment of the Forest to the parishes of Barrow, Groby, Whitwick and Sheepshed, will have before occurred to the reader. The Forest was, doubtless, so assigned, soon after the Forest rights passed from the Crown to Lords of Manors, on the disafforestation of Charnwood by King Henry III., 1234.

times, the ladies and the less active spectators of the chase used to place themselves, to obtain glimpses of the Forest hunting.*

Whatever weight these conjectures may have with the reader, the whole tract between the two Forests, including, as it does, the site of an ancient Castle—this Peculiar Exempt Jurisdiction—the great lake—the altar-stone at Markfield, and the ancient encampment at Ratby, will be found full of topographical and antiquarian interest. Every thing combines to show that Groby and the surrounding district was of great consequence long before the Conquest—most likely in the times of the Mercian Kings—and to so remote a period as that am I inclined to refer its Peculiar Jurisdiction, hereafter to be described.

An Act was passed in 1789 for inclosing about 500 acres of open fields in the liberty of Groby, in the parish of Ratby. The manor is of great extent, comprising Groby, Newtown Linford, Bradgate, Holgate, Mapplewell, Swithland, Rothley Plain, Cropston, Ansty, Glenfield, Ratby, Newtown Unthank, Botcheston, Stanton-nder-Bardon, parts of Desford and Markfield, and a large tract of Charnwood Forest. The Earl of Stamford exercises a right of free warren throughout nearly the whole of it. It is held of the King by the service of half a Knight's fee, as of the Honour of Tutbury.† Steward's Hay, the residence of William Martin, Esq., is the abode of the Earl of Stamford during his occasional visits to the neighbourhood. His Lordship is said to have great attachment to the ancient abodes of his noble ancestors; and the late Lord Grey was so devoted to Bradgate and Groby, which their memories have almost consecrated, as to have entertained the idea of restoring at least one of them. The Pool—it deserves the name of Lake—forms a very fine sheet of water; it was formerly about eighty acres in extent, but has been reduced by successive encroachments of reeds to about half that size. It is of an oval form, with slightly indented bays and projecting points of sienitic rock on its margin. With its little island, its fringe of sedge, and the numerous varieties of aquatic birds that frequent it, the Pool at all times presents a most pleasing object. By the inhabitants of a district affording no other expanse of equal size and beauty, it is naturally regarded as a wonder, and various legends respecting its original formation are current in the surrounding villages. The Abbot and Monks of St. Mary de Pratis, at Leicester, enjoyed, from the gift of their founder, the privilege of fishing in Groby Pool four stated days in a year.‡ These days, by admirable forethought, were fixed to be on the eves of the four great festivals of their patron Saint.

The delightful summer residence of Miss Pares, situated near the Pool Head, has many of the charms of a dwelling by the Cumberland Lakes. The village is of a very neat and picturesque character, and the scenery, particularly on the western side, where the sienitic

* Benscliff, on the Forest, and Bann Hill, near Groby, are also cognate words; derived, perhaps, from some ancient Forest custom.

† An account of this Honour may be found in Sir Oswald Mosley's "History of Tutbury"—one of the most pleasing monographs the Midland Counties have produced.

‡ Item habemus ex dono Fundatoris nostri singulis annis unum cervum die Assumptionis Beate Mariæ: et alium cervum in Nativitate Dei Genetricis Mariæ: et licentiam piscandi in magno vivario suo de Groby quatuor diebus per ann: scilicet vigiliâ Purificationis B. Mariæ, Annunciationis B. M., Assumptionis B. M., et Nativitatis ejusdem.—*Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. I., page 309.*

protrudes in wild irregular masses amongst rich herbage and foliage, is of a very varied and pleasing nature. The extensive quarries of granite, slightly varying in its texture from that of Mountsorrel, are well deserving attention. The geology, however, as well as the botany of this neighbourhood, will be found noticed at length under their respective heads in the Appendix.

PECULIAR OF GROBY.

The Lord of the Manor of Groby is entitled to an exempt ecclesiastical jurisdiction, which he exercises by a Commissary or Conservator, who is empowered to appoint Surrogates, Proctors, and Apparitors. The Court of the Peculiar has cognizance in all spiritual and ecclesiastical causes, and in matrimonial causes and divorces, and all other causes of which cognizance belongs to the Ecclesiastical Courts, according to the laws of this realm; and the correction and punishment of excesses and crimes of all persons in the Peculiar, as well Clergy as Laity, whose reformation belongs to the Ecclesiastical Court. The Commissary is also empowered to hold synods, and visitations of the Clergy and Laity; and to grant matrimonial licenses, faculties, and lawful dispensations. Also the proving or disproving of the testaments or last wills of all persons dying within the Peculiar, and the committing of the administration of the goods of deceased persons belonging to the Court of this Peculiar; which is entirely exempt from the authority or interference of the Bishop and Archdeacon, and the appeal therefrom immediately lies to the Court of Arches.

The Rectors, Ministers, and Churchwardens of the following places, attend at the Commissary's ordinary visitations:—Glenfield, Anstey, Ratby, Newtown Linford, Swithland, Cropston, Stanton-under-Bardon, and the Oaks Chapel, on Charnwood Forest.

By the Act for inclosing this Forest, the Commissioners' award is directed to be deposited in the Registry of this Court.

The records of the Peculiar are extant from the year 1565; and the following persons appear to have held the offices of Commissary, Surrogate, and Registrar:—

| COMMISSARIES. | SURROGATES. | REGISTRARS. |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1565 Richard Browne, 1st. | 1595 William Ludyard. | 1609 Henry Presgrave. |
| 1575 William Stoughton. | 1608 Gilbert Smith, M.A. | 1658 William Heyward. |
| 1591 John Chippendale, L.L.D. | 1672 John Herrick. | 1666 Edward Nowell. |
| 1622 John Presgrave, Clerk. | John Rogers. | 1672 George Saville. |
| 1646 John Angel, M.A. | 1675 Nicholas Folkingham, M.A. | 1672 John Birkhead. |
| 1666 Thomas Case, L.L.D. | 1679 John Burrows, M.A. | 1683 Thomas Wadland. |
| 1670 Richard Werge, M.A. | 1682 Theophilus Tapper, B.D. | 1698 Thomas Levett. |
| 1672 William Foster, L.L.D. | 1683 Samuel Collins, M.A. | 1720 John Ward. |
| 1701 George Newell, L.L.B. | 1685 Joseph Darby, M.A. | 1731 Richard Stephens. |
| 1741 John Wilson, B.D. | 1687 Robert Alefounder, M.A. | 1745 Norrice Cradock. |
| 1751 Joseph Hooley, M.A.* | 1689 John Coleman. | 1764 Thomas Pares. |
| 1784 George Hiffe Foster, M.A. | 1697 William Fox. | 1801 Samuel Miles.* |
| 1799 William Pares, L.L.B. | 1705 Edward Stokes. | |
| 1810 Robert Martin, M.A. | 1715 Reuben Clark. | |
| 1827 The Hon. and Rev. H. D. Erskine, M.A. | 1735 A. Brooksby. | |
| 1835 Robert Martin, M.A. | 1741 John Tomlinson. | |
| | 1747 Walter Crompton. | |
| | 1750 Joseph Hooley. | |
| | 1799 Robert Martin. | |

* Father of the present Archbishop of Canterbury, who spells the name "ex antiquo" Howley.

* By the recent death of this respected man and able antiquary, this office is at the present time vacant. He rendered Mr. Nichols very valuable aid in his great Work, and had at one period the intention of favouring the public with his own collections on the antiquities of the county.

In a state of the Archdeaconry, taken in 1564, Groby and its dependencies are thus mentioned:—

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| GROWBYE. | { Dominus Robertus Grace, vicarius de Whitwyck, habet jurisdictionem } { peculiarem ejusdem, et est manerium consistens de | Parochiâ de Rotbie in quâ sunt familiæ | 21 |
| ROTBIE.— | { Dominus Edmundus Woollaston, vicarius institutus ibidem, non } residet | in quâ parochia sunt familiæ | 27 |
| | { et dicta parochia consistit de | { hamlet' de Bocheston in quâ sunt familiæ .. | 5 |
| | | { Newton Parva hamlet' in quâ sunt | 4 |
| | | { Capella de Newton Lynford in quâ sunt familiæ | 27 |
| SWYTHLAND— | in quâ sunt familiæ | | 30 |
| THURCASTON. | { Anstye Capella—in quâ sunt familiæ | | 24 |
| | { Hamlet' de Cropston—in quâ sunt familiæ | | 13 |
| STANTON.— | Hamlet' de Stanton (subtus Bardon) in quâ sunt familiæ | | 14 |
| NEWTONNE LILFORD. | { Consistit in Manerio de Growbie, Howlegates, et Hol- } { gatewarde | in quâ sunt familiæ præter manerium dominæ reginæ .. | 47 |

ADDITION TO GROBY.

Since the foregoing notice of Groby was sent to press, the Rev. Robert Martin, of Anstey Pastures, has most obligingly communicated to me a valuable original document from the pen of the late learned Antiquary, Mr. Samuel Miles—the result of that gentleman's researches in the Duchy of Lancaster Office in 1806. This document so strongly confirms the opinions advanced in pages 113 and 114, respecting the Forests of Charnwood and Leicester having, at an early period, been one Forest, that I most gladly avail myself of the opportunity of making one or two extracts from it here. Mr. Miles says, “A grant of very extensive privileges was made by King John in 1199, to Robert Fitz Parnell, the last Norman Earl of Leicester, which I find is designated, in the Records of the Duchy Office, ‘The Creation of the Honour of Leicester.’ to which Honour a Forest of *very large extent* was most unquestionably appendant, comprising (as I am well satisfied) the Woodlands of Whitwick, Groby, and Sheepshed, with their members, besides other woodlands *extending to Hinckley, and including various intermediate places*; to which Forest it appears that Charley, or Charnwood, comprising (as I conceive) a small part of what is now known by that name, was afterwards annexed.” Again—“It is clear that part of the Forest or Chace which belonged to the Honour of Leicester, was held by Simon de Montford as distinct Forest or Chace, and continued to be called Leicester Forest: and the other part of it, which was allotted to Saër de Quincy, appears to have been afterwards usually called Charley or Charnwood Forest, though it for some time certainly *was also called LEICESTER FOREST.*”—The manor of Groby has continued in one family ever since the Norman Conquest!

BRADGATE.

Oh! there are souls that come,—and such was thine—
 So clothed in greatness from the Almighty's hand,
 They breathe and are immortal! All divine,
 In starry brightness on the earth they stand;
 Pure spirit-flames; then back to their own land!
 Leaving to Time's succeeding tribes to greet
 The spot once touched and hallowed by their feet.—*W. Howitt.*

BRADGATE, to which, perhaps, greater celebrity attaches than to any other place in connexion with Charnwood, adjoins the south-east corner of the Forest. The manor having formed part of the possessions of the Earls of Leicester, passed to the Ferrars, and from the latter to the Greys, so nearly in the same manner as Groby as to render any description of the mode in which it passed wholly unnecessary.

The name appears to be derived from the Broad Gate, which was in early times the principal entrance of the Earls of Leicester into the Forest, and which stood on the spot now called Holgates, but anciently the *Oldgates*, and latterly, when the Park became of greater importance than the Forest, and had an entrance at that point, was very naturally changed into Hallgates, which last name I have retained in the map that accompanies this book. The road from Leicester Castle to the ancient Forest would thus seem to have lain through Thurcaston, the appropriately-situated residence of the Falconers, who appear to have attended the Norman Kings, and subsequently the Earls of Leicester, in the chase.*

Bradgate Park—for there never was any village of that name—forms one of the belt of Parks which almost wholly encircled the Forest; to which, indeed, they owed their origin, either as offering facilities for more champaign or free hunting than the thick woodland permitted, or as furnishing additional protection to the Forest itself. This belt was formed by the Parks of Groby, of which there were four, extending altogether several miles on the southern border—of Bardon, Whitwick, Gracedieu, Garendon, Burleigh, Loughborough (two), Beaumanor, Quorndon, Swithland, and Bradgate. Groby and Bradgate, from their greater contiguity to Leicester Castle, may be presumed to have been the first inclosed; the latter is certainly of great antiquity. The following agreement made between Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester,† and Roger de Somery, Baron of Dudley, about their mutual hunting in Charnwood Forest and Bradgate Park, will show that it was imparked previously to 1247:—

“This is the Agreement made at Leicester on the day of St. Vincent the Martyr, in the 31st year of the reign of king Henry, the son of king John (before sir Roger de Turkilby, master Simon de Walton, sir Gilbert de Preston, and sir John de Cobham, justices then there itinerant), between Roger de Quincy, earl of Winton, and Roger Somery: To wit; that the aforesaid Roger de Somery hath granted for him and his heirs, that the aforesaid

* See under Thurcaston.

† For “Earl of Winchester” Nichols writes “Earl of *Leicester*,” and for “Charnwood Forest” “*Leicester* Forest, which are manifestly wrong, both from the body of this deed and its reference to that given in page 16 of this work.

earl and his heirs may have and hold his park of Bradgate so inclosed as it was inclosed in the Octaves of St. Hilary, in the 31st year of the aforesaid king Henry, with the deer-leaps [saltatorii] then in it made. And for this agreement and grant, the same earl hath granted, for him and his heirs, that the same Roger de Somery and his heirs may enter at any hour on the forest of him the earl, to chase in it [ad bersandum] with nine bows and six hounds, according to the form of a cyrograph before made, between the aforesaid Roger earl of Winton and Hugh de Albiniaco earl of Arundel, in the court of the lord the king at Leicester. And if any wild beast, wounded by any of the aforesaid bows, shall enter the aforesaid park by any deer-leap or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the aforesaid Roger de Somery and his heirs to send one man or two of his, who shall follow the aforesaid wild beast, with the dogs pursuing that wild beast within the aforesaid park, without bow and arrows, and may take it on that day whereon it was wounded, without hurt of other wild beasts in the aforesaid park abiding; so that, if they be footmen, they shall enter by some deer-leap or hedge; and if they be horsemen they shall enter by the gate, if it shall be open; and otherwise shall not enter before they wind their horn for the keeper, if he will come. And farther, the same earl hath granted for him and his heirs, that they for the future shall every year cause to be taken a brace of bucks in the buck-season, and a brace of does in the doe-season, and them cause to be delivered at the gate of the aforesaid park to any one of the men of the aforesaid Roger de Somery and his heirs, bringing their letters patents for the aforesaid deer. The aforesaid earl hath also granted for him and his heirs, that they for the future shall make no park, nor augment the park beyond the bounds of the hunting ground of the aforesaid Roger and his heirs, besides the antient enclosures of the aforesaid forest. And the aforesaid Roger de Somery hath granted for him and his heirs, that they for the future shall never enter the aforesaid forest to chace, save with nine bows and six hounds; and that their foresters shall not carry in the wood of the aforesaid Roger de Somery and their heirs, barbed arrows, but [sagittas barbata, sed pilettas]. And that his men of Barwe and foresters, within the Octaves of St. Michael, at the Park ford, shall do fealty every year to the bailiffs of the aforesaid earl and his heirs, and other things which to the aforesaid forest belong, according to the purport of the cyrograph between the aforesaid earls of Winchester and Arundel before made. And this agreement is made between the aforesaid earl and the aforesaid Roger de Somery, saving to the same earl and his heirs, and to the aforesaid Roger de Somery and his heirs, all the articles in the aforesaid cyrograph made between the aforesaid earls of Winchester and Arundel contained. And farther, the said earl hath granted for him and his heirs, that the one or two of the men of the aforesaid Roger de Somery and his heirs, who shall follow the aforesaid wild beast wounded, with the dogs pursuing it into the aforesaid park, with the aforesaid wild beast, whether they shall have taken it or not, may, with the aforesaid dogs, freely and without hindrance, go out through the gate of the aforesaid park. And the aforesaid earl and his heirs shall cause some one of their servants to give notice to the aforesaid Roger de Somery and his heirs at Barwe,*

* "At Barwe."—This expression seems strongly confirmatory of the correctness of the opinion previously hazarded respecting the probability of a mansion having been situated in the Park of Barrow, or at least somewhere in that extensive parish.

on what day he shall send for the abovesaid deer to the aforesaid place at the aforesaid times; and this notice they shall cause to be given to them six days before the aforesaid day. In witness whereof each to the other's writing hath put to his seal. And it is to be observed, that the time of buck-season [tempus pinguedinis] here is computed between the feast of St. Peter ad vineula [August 1st.] and the exaltation of the Holy Cross [Sept. 14]; and the time of doe-season [tempus firmationis] between the feast of St. Martin and the purification of the Blessed Virgin."

The present Park is bounded by a wall of nearly seven miles in length, and is also subdivided into several walled lawnds, some of which are of very ancient inclosure. The whole surface is of a very varied character, in which wildness greatly predominates. The little glen on the south-western side, called the Rocky Valley, is extremely romantic. The mansion, of which the ruins still form an object of such interest, is deserving of particular notice. Of this Leland makes the following remarks:—"From Leicester to Brodegate, by ground well woodded, 3 miles. At Brodegate is a faire Parke and a logge lately builded there by the Lorde Thomas Gray, Marquise of Dorsete, father to Henry that is now Marquise." Hence it may be concluded that the mansion was erected about the year 1530. The former Marquis, however, began some buildings here in 1501. This house, according to the same authority (*Leland*), was chiefly erected out of the materials of the Manor House of the Earls of Warwick at Sutton Coldfield; for he says, "After that the Earldom of Warwick was attainted and came to the Kinge, the toune of Sutton, standinge in a barren soyle, fell daily to decay, and the market was cleane forsaken. Wingston, by authoritie of his office, sould the tymbre of the Mannour place, and had part of it himselfe. The hall selfe was after sett up at Brodegate, the Marquise of Dorset's house at Leicester, and there yet stonddeth."*

It was inhabited by the family and their successors until the early part of the last century, when it was destroyed by fire, and left in the state in which it now stands. Throsby, in his "History of Leicestershire," mentions that James the First was entertained here for some days; but there are no certain accounts respecting his visit. Nichols, who published a description of the progresses of this King, in mentioning the various palaces and houses of the nobles where he sojourned, takes no notice of Bradgate; and it is therefore most probable that he never visited it. It is certain, however, that King William was entertained here for some days: the account states that he rode from Leicester through the open fields by Anstey, which was also then uninclosed. The following account of the destruction of the house is taken from Throsby's Leicestershire:—"It is said of the wife of the Earl of Suffolk, who last inhabited Bradgate Hall, that she set it on fire, at the instigation of her sister, who then lived in London. The story is thus told:—Some time after the Earl had married, he brought his lady to his seat at Bradgate; her sister wrote to her, desiring to know how she liked her habitation, and the country she was in: the Countess of Suffolk wrote for answer, 'that the house was tolerable, that the country was a forest, and the inhabitants all brutes.' The sister in consequence, by letter, desired her to set fire to the

* Leland, Vol. IV., page 187.

house, and run away by the light of it : the former part of the request, it is said, she immediately put in practice, and thus this celebrated and interesting mansion was consigned to the flames."

PRESENT APPEARANCE OF BRADGATE.

I shall now proceed to give a detailed account of the ruins, as they exist at the present day. On approaching them from the west, we perceive the remains of two towers, one of a square form, the other an irregular polygon ; these are now only connected together by a low ruinous wall ; they and the rest of the edifice are built of brick, with coins at the angles, and cornice mouldings of soft red sandstone ; the mullions and facings of the windows, which are square headed, are also of the same materials. To the south of these towers are the remains of the bakehouse, the ovens of which may still be discerned ; over it were probably the servants' chambers, the fire-places of which still exist to the height of three stories, and this part of the ruin is surmounted by a large angular-shaped chimney, with a projecting cornice of brick. A few feet to the north-east of the bakehouse are the remains of the kitchen ; of this nothing more is now apparent than the capacious fire-place, and a portion of the wall. The above buildings are evidently of older date than other portions of the ruins, and formed part of the mansion existing during the period of Lady Jane Grey's residence here. The great hall appears to have been on the north side of the house ; and here the remains of a wall and square-headed windows, partly overgrown with ivy, are still to be seen. What a casual observer would probably take for the entrance door, appears to have been a bay or projecting window reaching down to the ground ; all the mullioned tracery, however, is demolished. The entrance door, which likewise projected, was much to the westward of these windows, and may still be traced out. Eastward of the hall a long range of buildings extended towards the north, the foundations only of which now remain ; these inclosed the court on the east, the great hall and other offices on the south. The east front, the foundations of the buildings of which may be traced, looked out on the Plaisance, and here no doubt were the more private and most comfortable apartments of the family. At the south-eastern corner of the mansion, and connected formerly on the north and east with other buildings, are the remains of an octagonal tower, with square-headed windows, mostly divided by a mullion, the facings and architrave mouldings of which are of stone ; and a little to the westward of this is

THE CHAPEL.

This is the only part of this once extensive mansion which is now covered in ; it joined other buildings on the east and north sides, and was formerly lighted by a large square-headed window on the south, divided into twelve compartments by mullions and transoms, the six lowest of which are now bricked up ; and on the west by two square-headed windows of smaller dimensions, both of which are also bricked up, and the mullions of them destroyed ; above the large window on the south side is a smaller one, which like the rest is now blocked up. All these windows have stone dressings, and a horizontal moulding of



stone runs along the west and south sides of the building. On entering the Chapel, we find the interior to be quite plain, the length from north to south thirty-five feet, the breadth twenty-one feet. It was repaired by order of the present Earl of Stamford, and in a vault beneath the pavement the remains of several of his ancestors are deposited; but with the exception of a monument on the east side, the Chapel contains nothing worthy of observation, and is totally devoid of pews or ornament of any kind.

An oblong slab of blue slate, divided into long hexagonal pieces, lies over the entrance to a vault, on which is the following inscription:—

P. G.

The rt honble Thos Grey

baron of Groby visct. Woodvil and earl of Stamford

late Lord lieut of Devonshire and Somersetshire

died Jany the 31st 1719 aged 67 years

the rt honble

Mary countess dowager of Stamford

died Feb 10th 1722 aged 51 years

This vault likewise contained the body of Lady Diana Grey, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Stamford, by his first wife Elizabeth.

On a table tomb on the east side of the Chapel, beneath an enriched pediment, supported by two Ionic pillars richly carved, and under a covered arch, the soffit of which is panelled and carved, repose the recumbent effigies of Henry Grey, created Baron of Groby by King James the First, and of Anne his wife, daughter of the celebrated Lord Burleigh. He is represented as equipped in a complete suit of plate armour, over which is a rich mantle with a furred cape, fastened by a clasp in front over the breast, below which it falls open to expose the armour. He is bare-headed with mustachios and a long beard, and his head reclines upon a helmet surmounted by a crest. His armour consists of a gorget and breast-plate, with taces and tassets attached, cuisses or thigh pieces, genouilleres or knee caps, and jamba. The lower parts of his legs are destroyed; at the bottom where his feet rested, are his gauntlets, composed of over-lapping plates; his arms and shoulders are likewise cased in plate down to the wrist, but the greater part of the right arm is destroyed. The whole of the suit is richly ornamented. His lady is represented as habited in a long bodiced gown closely fitting to the waist, and from thence falling in ample folds to the bottom of the feet; over this is a large mantle, with a furred cape open in front; her head is covered with an ornamented cap, and rests on a double cushion, and a long veil falls behind; her neck is encircled by a ruff, and from it are suspended ornaments reaching nearly to her feet; her sleeves are loose, with close cuffs at the wrist. The hands of this figure are destroyed, but they seem to have been held up in prayer. The west side of the tomb is divided

into three compartments, within which, surrounded by scroll work, are many armorial bearings.*

The plaisance or pleasure ground (mistaken by Throsby, and often miscalled a tilt yard) lies on the eastern side of the house, and is about ninety yards in length by eighty in breadth, surrounded by a raised terrace, the broad walks of which, though now covered with verdant turf, may be still traced out. A moat, which is crossed by a stone bridge of two arches, separates the plaisance from what was formerly a garden or orchard, though few traces of its having been such now remain. To the north of the house is a fish-pond; and adjoining to this, running in a parallel line with the north, is a moat, beyond which is a straight walk beneath an avenue of beautiful Spanish chesnuts; there are also some aged mulberry trees about the ruins, and a great variety of scarce wild plants.

Having given this description of the ruins, which I chiefly glean from the Rev. Andrew Bloxam's work already referred to, I resume my notices of the noble family of the proprietor.

Henry, the third Marquis, was only thirteen when he succeeded his father. In February, 1546-7, on the coronation of Edward VI., he was appointed Lord High Constable of England for three days only: in 1550, Justice Itinerant of all the King's Forests. His first wife was Catherine, daughter of William Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, by whom he had no issue. He married secondly Frances, daughter and co-heir of Charles Brandon, the gay Duke of Suffolk, by his third wife, Mary, daughter of Henry VII., and widow of Louis XII., King of France. In compliment to the Lady, he was in 1551 created Duke of Suffolk.† Here were born, issue of this marriage, the Ladies Jane, Mary, and Katherine Grey. The fate of two of these interesting sisters has already been briefly noticed under Beaumanor; that of the eldest, Lady Jane, has been so fruitful, so sad, and yet so delightful a theme for historians, poets, and biographers, that little that is new can be said upon it, and probably that little would not have been deemed necessary, but for the late attempt of an anonymous writer to detract from the rare merits and extraordinary attainments of this most gifted and guileless girl.‡

*1. Arms of Grey. Barry of six, argent and azure, in chief three torteauxes, and label of five points ermine.

2. Grey, impaling Windsor. Gules, a saltire argent, between twelve cross crosslets, or.

3. Windsor.

The pediment of this monument is surmounted by an escutcheon or shield, surrounded by scroll work, containing the following quarterings, surrounded by a crest:—

1. Grey (before described.)

2. Hastings. Argent, a maunch sable.

3. Valence. Barry of eight, argent and azure, an orle of martlets, gules.

4. Ferrars, of Groby. Gules, seven masles conjoined, or, three, three, and one.

5. Astley. Azure, a cinquefoil ermine.

6. Woodville. Argent, a fess and canton gules.

7. Bonville, sable, 6 mullets argent, round pierced gules.

8. Harrington, sable, A fret, argent.

Supporters, two unicorns ermine, armed, crested, and hooped or, motto, "*A ma puissance.*"

† Trin. Rec., 6 Edward VI., m. 9.

‡ The writer alluded to thinks the statements respecting Lady Jane "exceed the grounds of credibility, and are nearly allied to those Monkish romances of Saints and Martyrs invented by craft to impose on credulity." He calls Ascham's encomiums "indiscriminate and garrulous," and strongly questions his veracity.—*Beauties of England and Wales, Vol. IX., page 398.*

Linked in our memories with every name distinguished for feminine excellence, that of Lady Jane has by most people been regarded as synonymous with all that is eminently talented and virtuous. The critic that attempts to prove Troy a poetical figment, and the topographer who wishes to lower the general estimate of the character, talents, and acquirements of Lady Jane Grey, are equally the object of one's dislike. Fortunately, her reputation rests on better authority than that of the cynic who wrote the notice in the *Beauties* of England. It may, indeed, be with truth asserted, that the biography of no nation can produce a female character combining, at so early an age, such transcendant attainments with such exalted virtues.*

SHORT PEDIGREE OF LADY JANE GREY.

Showing her descent from Edward IV.; and that of both her parents (Henry Grey, 3rd Marquis of Dorset, and Frances his wife), from Elizabeth Widvile.

Sir John Grey, succeeded as Lord Ferrars of Groby, 1458; and was slain at the battle of St. Albans, Feb. 17th, 1460-61; 1st husband. = Elizabeth Widvile, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Widvile, and co-heir of Sir Richard Widvile, afterwards Earl Rivers, 2nd husband.

Anne, only daughter of Henry Holland, Earl of Ex. etc.; died s. p. — 1st wife. = Sir Thomas Grey, succeeded as Lord Ferrars of Groby 1461; created Earl of Huntingdon August 24, 1471, and first Marquis of Dorset of the family of Grey, Apr. 18, 1475; K. G. and a Privy Counsellor to Henry VII. Died Apr. 10, 1501; bur. at Astley. = Cicely, dau. and heir of Wm. Lord Bonville and at Harrington. — 2nd wife. = Sir Richard Grey, beheaded at Pontefract Castle, 1483. = 4. Eliza- = Henry VII. = 1. Edward V. smothered 1483. = 2. Richard. = 3. George. = 5. Catherine. = 6. Cicely. = 7. Ann. = 8. Bridget. = 9. Mary. = 10. Margaret.

Eleanor, = Thomas Grey, succeeded as second Marquis of Dorset, &c., 1501; Chief Justice of all the King's forests 1524, K. G.; died 1530; buried at Astley. = Margaret, dau. of Sir Robert Wotton, of Botton, in Kent, and widow of William Medley. — 2nd wife. = Arthur, mar. to Catherine of Arragon. = Henry VIII. = Margaret, married James IV., of Scotland, 1502. = Louis XII. = Mary. = Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, 2d husband.

Catharine, daughter of William Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel; died s. p. — 1st wife. = Henry Grey, succeeded as third Marquis of Dorset, &c., 1530; Constable of England 1547; Justice of the King's Forests 1550; Warden of the East, West, and Middle Marches 1551; created Duke of Suffolk Oct. 5, 1551; K. G.; attainted and beheaded Feb. 23, 1553-4. = Frances, eldest daughter and co-heir of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk; died Nov. 21, 1559; buried in Westminster Abbey. — 2nd wife.

Lady Jane Grey, married Guilford Dudley, 4th son of John, Duke of Northumberland; was proclaimed Queen on the death of Edward VI., and beheaded Feb. 12, 1553-4. = Catharine, mar. 1st, Henry Herbert, eld. son of William, Earl of Pembroke; divorced. — 2ndly, Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, by whom she had 3 sons and a daughter, and died a prisoner in the Tower, Jan. 26, 1567. = Mary, married Martin Keys, of Kent; died 1578.

* Ascham, the tutor of Elizabeth, in his Latin Epistles, speaks of her as the most erudite and accomplished woman of the times, and frequently dwells on the surprise he felt when visiting Bradgate, on finding her reading the Phædo of Plato, while the rest of the company were hunting in the Park. Aylmer, her own tutor, the chief pillar of early Protestantism in Leicestershire, bears equally strong testimony to her virtues and erudition. Sir Thomas Chaloner, also her contemporary, states that "she was well versed in Hebrew, Chaldee, and Arabic; and that she excelled also in the various branches of ordinary feminine education—played well on instrumental music, sang exquisitely, wrote an elegant hand, and excelled in curious needlework; and with all these rare endowments, was of a mild, humble, and modest spirit." Fuller, the historian, who lived about a century after her, says, "She had the innocence of childhood, the beauty of youth, the solidity of middle, the gravity of old age, and all at eighteen; the birth of a Princess, the learning of a clerk, the life of a saint, and the death of a malefactor for her parents' offences."

Admiration of the life, and pity for the unmerited death of this extraordinary Lady, have been evinced by the thousands of pilgrimages to the place of her birth—pilgrimages which will be continued while a love for what is greatly good shall animate British bosoms. For what but “the sweet memory” of Lady Jane has invested Bradgate with such a charm? It is not, confessedly, the ruins—it is not the Oaks—or the scenery of the Park—it is mainly the association of the spot with the name of the ten days’ Queen—whose character will continue to be a theme for praise when “*The Beauties*” are forgotten; and whose fate, in all gentle breasts, will be mourned

“Till Pity’s self be dead!”

There prevails, even amongst educated persons, a singular confusion of ideas respecting the grounds on which Lady Jane was induced to lay claim to the Crown.* Many look upon it merely as a baseless scheme, concocted by the ambitious Dudleys and the Duke of Suffolk. Her right, perhaps, has never been so prominently put forward as it deserves. It was grounded on her direct descent from Edward IV. and Henry VII.—(see Pedigree on preceding page)—on Henry VIII. having, by statute, declared the illegitimacy of his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and excluded the descendants of his sister Margaret (wife of James IV. of Scotland), and on the will of Edward VI., in which he named Lady Jane Grey his successor.

Further, either Mary or Elizabeth must have been illegitimate by the canon law, and *both* had been declared so by Act of Parliament: it became, therefore, a question for the casuist to decide whether Lady Jane Grey was not the rightful claimant. Certain it is, her claims did not rest on grounds so frivolous as they have sometimes been described, but were of a nature at least to command attention at such a juncture.

Queen Mary herself seems, indeed, to have tacitly acknowledged this, for it is nearly certain that she would have spared the lives of Lady Jane and Lord Guilford Dudley but for Sir Thomas Wyatt’s ill-timed and unfortunate demonstration in her favour. If, therefore, allowance be made for parental feeling—for a natural anxiety to favour infant Protestantism—and for the uncertainty about the rightful successor—the Dukes of Northumberland and Suffolk will appear far less culpable in their attempt to secure the Crown for Lady Jane than they have generally been represented. It may even be questioned whether they were not actuated much more by a sense of duty, than by the promptings of ambition. But I am anticipating:—Lady Jane and her husband, to whom she had been married about a year, were at Sion House at the time of the young King’s death. Her consent to her own proclamation was only extorted by the most earnest parental entreaties. Her philosophy on this occasion was no less wonderful than the fortitude with which she endured the last most trying scene. Had she been dazzled with the splendours of a throne, and mounted it with the eagerness so natural to her youth, half the glory that invests her name would have been dimmed.

The night before her execution, after having long been engaged in her devotions, she

* I remember the question being asked on the spot so hallowed by her memory, and in a party consisting of several not unknown to literature, and all confessed they had no clear conception on the subject.

took up a Greek Testament, and having attentively perused it for some time, she wrote, on some blank pages at the end, that "most godly and learned exhortation" to her sister, Lady Katherine, which has justly been admired as one of the most surprising epistles ever penned by a person on the very verge of eternity.* She also wrote a letter to her father, full of tenderness, respect, and affection, and having performed this last sisterly and filial duty, she again knelt in prayer, and then sank into a tranquil sleep.

Heylin thus describes her conduct on the last morrow:—"The fatal morning being come, the Lord Guilford earnestly desired the officers that he might take his farewell of her: which, though they willingly permitted, yet upon notice of it she advised the contrary, assuring him that such a meeting would rather add to his afflictions than increase that quiet wherewith they had possessed their souls for the stroke of death, * * * that it was to be feared her presence would rather weaken than strengthen him; that he ought to take courage from his reason and derive constancy from his own heart; that if his soul were not firm and settled, she could not settle it by her eyes nor confirm it by her words; that he should do well to remit this interview to the other world; that there, indeed, friendships were happy and unions undissolvable.* * * All she could do was to give him a farewell out of a window as he passed towards the place of his dissolution."

This farewell—the spectacle of her husband's headless body, and all the other most mournful trials of that hour, were endured with a serenity and fortitude which Christian hope alone could impart. "She knew," she said, "she was upon the point of meeting with him in a better conjuncture, where they should never find the like intermission of their joys."

Another writer thus depicts her closing scene:—"The Lady Jane, whose lodging was in Master Partridge's house, did see his [her husband's] dead carcasse taken out of the cart as well as she did see him before alive going to his death—a sight, as might be supposed, to her worse than death. By this time was there a scaffold made upon the greene over against the White Tower, for the Ladie Jane to die upon, who being nothing at all abashed, neither with fear of hir own death, which then approached, neither with the sight of the dead carcasse of her husband when he was brought to the chappell, came forth, the lieutenant leading hir, with countenance nothing abashed, neither her eies any thing moistened with teares, with a booke in her hand wherein she praised untill she came to the said scaffold: whereon when she was mounted, this noble young ladie, as she was indued with singular gifts both of learning and knowledge so was she as mild and patient as anie lamb at hir execution, and a little before her death uttered these words: 'Goode people, I come hether to die, and by lave I am condemned to the same. The facte, indeede, against the Quene's highnes was unlawful and the consenting thereunto by me; but touching the *procurement and desyne* thereof by me, or on my halfe, I doo wash my hands thereof in innocencie before God and the face of you good Christian people this day.' (And therewith she wrung hir hands in which she had hir booke.) Then she said, 'I pray you all, good Christian people, to bere me wytness that I dye a true Christian woman, and that I looke to be saved by none other mene, but only by the mercy of God in the merites of the bloud of his only sonne

* I have been informed that the Greek Testament, with this most interesting autograph, is still in the possession of the Earl of Stamford.

Jesus Christ: and I confesse when I dyd know the word of God I neglected the same, and loved myselfe and the world, and therefore this plage and punyishment is happely and wortely happened unto me for my sinnes. And yet I thank God of his goodness that he hath thus given me a tyme and respet to repent. And now, good people, while I am alyve I praie you to assyst me with your praiers.’ And then she knelyng down she turned to Fecknam, saying, ‘Shall I say this psalm?’ And he said ‘Yes.’ Then she said the psalm of *Miserere mei Deus* in English, in most devout manner to the ende. Then she stode up and gave hir mayde, in Mistress Tylney, hir gloves and handkercher: and hir booke to Maister Thomas Bridges, the lyvetenante’s brother. Forthwith she untyed hir gowne. The hangman went to hir to have helped her of therwith, then she desyred him to let her alone; turning towards hir two gentlewomen who helped hir of therwith, and also hir frose paste and neckercher, geving to her a faire handkercher to knytte about hir eies. Then the hangman kneeled down and asked hir forgyveness, whome she forgave most willingly. Then he willed hir to stand upon the strawe, which doing she sawe the block. Then she said, ‘I pray you dispatche me quickly.’ Then she kneeled down, saying, ‘Wil you take it of before I lay me downe?’ And the hangman answered her, ‘No, Madame.’ She tyed the kercher about hir eies; then, *feeling for the blocke*, said, ‘What shall I do? Where is it?’ One of the standers-by guyding hir therunto, she layde hir head downe upon the blocke and stretched forth hir body, and sayde, ‘Lord, into thy handes I commend my spirite.*’ Thus perished, in the bloom of youth, this most amiable and gifted lady—(on the 12th of February, 1554)—over whose fate we may well exclaim, in the words of a modern poet—

“Oh deeply wronged, yet unresenting! wise
 Beyond thy day and people—it is past!
 What now are all thy sorrows? Centuries
 Of death’s enduring calm are on them cast.
 Hushed in *thy* bosom, yet in *ours* they last;
 And to the youthful eye thy name appears
 A household word,—still honoured by its tears.”—*Hovett’s Lady Jane in the Tower.*

The Duke of Suffolk, the father of the Lady Jane, was beheaded on the Saturday following: and on the 28th of the following April, her uncle, “the Lord Thomas Greie, was beheaded on Tower Hill; a proper gentleman, and one that had served right valiantlie both in France and Scotland, in the daies of the late Kings, Henry and Edward.”† The Lord John Grey, now become the head of the family, was soon after taken, tried, and condemned, but “through the painful travail and diligent suit of the Lady Mary Grey, his wife (who, as

* The portrait of Lady Jane engraven in Nichols, from Vertue, owing partly to the unbecoming hat and inelegant dress in which she is painted, gives a very poor idea of her personal loveliness. There is an original at Althorpe, by Lucas de Heere, which Dibdin had engraved for his Bibliographical Decameron, and which he pronounced one of the most precious cabinet pictures in the kingdom. The Earl of Stamford has also a very fine original painting of her, which is engraved in Lodge’s *Illustrious Portraits*. One of exquisite beauty was, in 1807, in the possession of the late Mr. Harrington, of Breaston, Derbyshire, who procured it from Risley Hall, a seat of a branch of the Greys. It was probably the same picture that attracted such general admiration in the late Mechanics’ Exhibition at Derby.

† Holinshed, Vol. III., page 1117.

a sister of Anthony Viscount Montacute, had peculiar interest with the Court), his pardon was obtained.* He was also, as if in acknowledgment of the wrongs done to his family, soon afterwards received into great favour with Queen Mary—had a grant of the herbage of Bardon Park—and on the 4th of April, 1559, another of the site of a capital messuage called Pergore or Pergoe, in Essex, with Pigge's Grange and a Park—part of the ancient and royal manor of Hovering at Bower. In 1564, being suspected of having encouraged Hales in the publication of an obnoxious pamphlet, he was for some time kept in confinement at the Court, and did not long survive it. He was buried at Pirgo, having left surviving Sir Henry, his successor, then aged seventeen, Margaret, married to Sir Henry Capel, Knight, and Frances, to Sir William Cook, Knight, of Gidea Hall, Essex.

Sir Henry Grey, who had the advantage of being pupil to the learned Erasmus, married Anne, daughter of William Lord Windsor, of Bradenham, by whom he had four sons—John, Henry, Ambrose, and George, and two daughters.

He continued to reside at Pirgo till the beginning of the reign of James I., when being already (by failure of issue to the daughters of his uncle Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk) Lord Bonville and Harrington by descent, he was created Baron of Groby, by letters patent, July 21, 1603. Having sold his property at Pirgo, he fixed his residence at Bradgate; here he long enjoyed all the pleasures of retirement, and dying in 1614 was interred at Bradgate, and was succeeded by his grandson Henry, son of his eldest son Sir John Grey, and of Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Nevil, Lord Abergavenny. This Henry, Lord Grey of Groby, married Anne, daughter and co-heir of William Cecil, Earl of Exeter, in whose right he became possessed of the Castle, borough, and manor of Stamford, whence he took the title of the Earldom, with which he was honoured by Charles I., March 26, 1625. In the following year he obtained from the King a grant to himself and Daniel Britton, of certain lands in Charnwood Forest adjoining his Park of Bradgate; and continued, says Nichols, to enjoy in this delightful retirement the comforts of domestic felicity, till the fatal disturbances of the times called forth his exertions in far different scenes. The Earl took, indeed, a most prominent and decided part on the side of the Parliament, and his eldest son, the Lord Thomas Grey, was one of the most zealous and active military supporters of the same cause, while one of the younger sons was not less zealous in that of his Royal master. The services rendered to the Parliamentary forces by the Earl and Lord Grey, naturally drew down upon them the resentment of the Royalists—accordingly, we find the Countess of Stamford stating in a petition, Dec. 10, 1645, that “her husband's estates in the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, Northampton, and Leicester, had been plundered and spoiled by the enemy, whereby she was in great want, and requested some maintenance for herself and her children.” The sum of £500. a year was accordingly voted by the House of Commons for their support, out of the estate of Sir Henry Bedingfield.†

Thomas Lord Grey far outwent, though he probably greatly led, his father in zeal for

* The Duchess of Suffolk, the daughter and mother of a Queen, formed, as has been shown under Beaumanor, a second marriage with Mr. Adrian Stocks, and died in 1559.

† Journals of the H. C., Vol. IV., p. 376.

the interest of the Parliamentarians. He was by far the most strenuous supporter of that side in the county of Leicester, in which he had the chief military command. He sat in the Painted Chamber on the 1st, 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 29th of January, and every day in Westminster Hall, on the trial of the King, the warrant for whose execution he also signed. He appears, however, cordially to have hated Cromwell, who was equally distrustful of him, and had him arrested by Col. Hacker, as a dangerous person, and conveyed to Windsor Castle. On again recovering his liberty, he placed himself at the head of the fanatics, called "Fifth Monarchy Men," who confederated to seize Thirsk in Scotland, and proclaim the Kingdom of Christ! He was again arrested, with several of his associates, on the eve of the day on which they intended to announce "the new Kingdom"—and only obtained his freedom by giving security for the payment of a very large penalty, should he ever again act against the Government.* His turbulent spirit, however, was soon afterwards (in 1657) quieted by death.

The Earl of Stamford survived his son many years, and appears greatly to have regretted the last violent measure of his party. He was walking, says Throsby, in the Park at Bradgate, anxiously waiting the return of a messenger sent to Leicester to inquire the result of the King's trial—"Well, Thomas," earnestly asked he on meeting him, "King or no King?" "No King" was the reply—"then," added the Earl, "no Lord Grey!" The Earl died in 1673, and was interred at Bradgate. He was succeeded by his grandson, Thomas Lord Grey, the son of the nobleman above described, and of Dorothy, second daughter and co-heir of Edward Bouchier, fourth Earl of Bath.

The second Earl of Stamford became a strenuous opponent of Popery and arbitrary power. He opposed the rescinding of the order for the impeachment of the three imprisoned Lords, and voted against the reversal of the attainder of the Viscount Stafford. Having by these and other acts incurred the displeasure of the King, he was arrested at Bradgate, early in 1685, on a charge of High Treason, and conveyed to the Tower; "but where, when or how, or upon what evidence, or for what matters," he states, in his petition to the House of Peers, "he knows not." A day, however, at his earnest request, was fixed for his trial, but in the interim the Parliament was prorogued and he obtained his liberty on bail, and was included in the general pardon of March 10, 1685-6.

The Earl married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Daniel Harvey, of Combe House, Surrey, from whom he was separated, in consequence, it is said, of her unpardonable folly in setting fire to Bradgate Hall, as already mentioned†—and married secondly, about 1695, Mary, daughter and co-heir of Joseph Maynard, Esq. Having been a zealous promoter of the Revolution, he was in great favour with William III., by whom he was made

* Ludlow pays Lord Grey the compliment to ascribe this engagement to pay a penalty, to an honourable feeling. He says, "this he chose to do rather than engage his parole, thereby hazarding only the loss of so much money, and preserving his honour and integrity."

† Nichols states that only a small portion of the house was injured, as the fire began in the north-west tower, over which was a reservoir, supplied by leaden pipes from a fine spring in Lea Wood, about two miles across the Forest. The Countess, with her infant daughter, Lady Diana, however, narrowly escaped with their lives.—*West Goscote*, p. 679, from which portion of his work a great part of the account of the family is taken.

a Privy Counsellor, and appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos of Derbyshire. He was also honoured in 1696 by a visit from his Sovereign, at Bradgate, for whose better passage, according to a still current tradition, a bridge was erected over Anstey brook, and a large room with a bow window fitted for the reception of his royal guest. The stables were also erected on this occasion, in the short space of nineteen days.* In the year following he was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lord Lieutenant and Custos of Leicestershire, and at the funeral of Queen Mary he bore one of the banners. After having greatly impoverished his estates by his zeal and attention to the public service, the Earl died January 31, 1719-20, in the 67th year of his age, and was buried at Bradgate. He had four children by his two marriages, but all having died infants the title and estates descended to Harry Grey, eldest son, by the second wife, of John Grey, third son of Henry the first Earl. The third Earl of Stamford married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Nathan Wrighte, the Lord Keeper, and dying in 1739 left two surviving sons, Harry his successor, and John, Member for Bridgnorth in 1754, again in 1761, and for Tregony in 1768.†

Harry Lord Grey, who succeeded his father as fourth Earl of Stamford, had previously, viz. in 1737-8, been elected one of the representatives of the county of Leicester. He married Mary, daughter and heir of George Booth, Earl of Warrington, and dying in 1768 was succeeded by his son George Harry Grey, the fifth Earl, born October 1, 1737. This nobleman, while Lord Grey, had twice represented the county of Stafford in Parliament, and at the coronation of George III. was one of the six eldest sons of Peers who supported the King's train: while his sister, Lady Mary, assisted in bearing that of Queen Charlotte. He married, in 1763, Henrietta Cavendish Bentinck, second daughter of William, Duke of Portland, and was created Baron Delamere of Dunham Massey in 1768, and Earl of Warrington in 1796.

Having now traced this distinguished and interesting noble family through its heads and some of its ramifications down to the present excellent and venerable Peer, I again briefly notice the Park, and then proceed to describe the other members of Groby.

A passing notice of the Park must now suffice. Its extent has already been described; its varied features of stern moorland wildness—its venerable and gnarled oaks—its undulating surface, interspersed with rock, and wood, and streamlet—the beautiful views afforded from its Prospect Tower, called “Old John”‡—and above all, the quiet beauty of the Rocky Valley—are, truly, objects that no pilgrim tourist can behold without delight; and when to

* In this Royal Progress his Majesty was at the Duke of Newcastle's, at Welbeck, Monday, November 4; at the Earl of Stamford's, at Bradgate, November 5; at the Duke of Shrewsbury's, at Egford, on the 6th; at Barford on the 7th; at Oxford on the 8th, and at Windsor on the 9th.

† He married Lucy, second daughter of Sir John Danvers, of Swithland, Bart., but left no issue.

‡ A windmill formerly stood here, and like the present building served as a distinguished land-mark in the county. The origin of its name was this:—when the mill was in existence, an aged man, who usually went by the name of Old John among the villagers, was its occupant, and met his death in the following unfortunate manner:—at the coming of age of the present Earl, an immense bonfire was made in the Park, in the middle of which was erected a large tree or pole, surrounded by tar barrels, faggots, &c.; the pole being burnt through at the bottom, suddenly fell among the surrounding crowd, and accidentally striking the poor old man, killed him upon the spot. The building was therefore named in remembrance of him.

all is superadded the remembrance, "amid these scenes the Lady Jane strayed—studied—wept"—that person must be a stranger to the sensibilities of our nature whose mind fails to derive deep enjoyment from such a spot. The author of the "School of the Heart"—the Hulsean Lecturer of the last and present year—thus rapturously speaks of a visit to Bradgate in that month in which Englishmen have been said to "hang, drown, shoot." "The glooms of November!!—Take us to our Forest scenery—set us down in the deep valley of Ulverscroft, or in the fantastic glen on the Newtown Linford side of Bradgate. Look at that ruined tower—how its sombre majesty is set off and duly circinctured by ash, and elm, and oak, with their gloomy masses of colour; the yet unscattered mist just frames the picture for you—the bare hills are all shut out—and alone in their beauty—the Abbey and its nursling, the farm, and their old ancestral woods lie there in quiet decay; the leaves ever and anon floating down, and the slow winding cattle being the only moving objects in this vale of peace. Now to Bradgate.—Did gilding ever surpass the glories of those fern-covered hills?—Yon oaks, of a thousand shapes and hues—(and under them, in all her beauty and innocence, the Lady Jane has wandered)—this fragrance from the decaying year—this babbling stream, that collects the brooding mist—yon old crumbling gables and turrets that pierce the dull distance—these are your November glooms. And look at the deer—not *the smooth, sleek gentlemen* of the undulating paddock, misnamed a Park—but wild, and bold, and stately as they move among the bright fern or under the ancient oaks; and the *twinkle, twinkle* of innumerable rabbits, as they hide themselves at our approach. Now the curtain of mist has been lifted: the glorious sun is high. Mount yon pile of grey rocks—look round you on wood and wold—on tower and town—on many a happy home, with its coloured fringe of timber—on the cloudless, boundless, and all-covering sky, and then tell us of the glooms of November!"*

I cannot dismiss this unavoidably long notice of Bradgate without mentioning the kindness and liberality of the noble proprietor, in allowing the public free ingress into the Park on two days a week. Till lately no such limitation was made; but after the wanton mischief and shameful improprieties that have been perpetrated, (when will English people learn better?) it is rather to be wondered at that the gates should be open at all, than that there should be such a needful limitation.

* This very just description of the noble deer that adorn this domain reminds me of a beautiful volume, lately published under the title of "*Sketches of Deer in Bradgate Park, by an Amateur*"—a work of which the neighbourhood may well be proud. It is in the highest style of tinted lithography, and the subjects have all Landseer's happy closeness to nature. It is, I believe, the production of John Martin, Esq., of Stewards Hay, who has not only evidently made companions of the denizens of the Forest, but deeply studied their habits and the peculiar scenery of the Park. There is also a beautiful vignette to the volume, presenting a very faithful representation of the ruins of the mansion:—

"A merry place, they say, in days of yore,
But something ails it now."

THURCASTON.

*(Turchitelestone, Thurkileleston, Thurkeston.)*Low Thurcaston's sequestered bower.—*Mason's Address to Hurd.*

This lordship was also one of sixty-seven which Grentesmaisnell held in this county. From him it came by marriage to Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester. In the Itinerary of 1280, this place, with Wanlip, Bradgate, Cropston, and Newtown Linford, answered collectively as one vill.

"The manor," says Burton in his manuscript " (as is evident from an old Feodary book), was granted by Robert, Earl of Leicester, about the time of Henry II., to William, one of his followers, to hold of him by this service, viz. :—to keep his falcons; which office gave unto his posterity the surname of Falconer, who thereupon bore Argent three falcons, gules." It will appear, however, that this "old Feodary book," cited by Burton, is at variance with the real fact; and it is remarkable that the error should have escaped our later County Historian. The Falconers did not, as will be seen, derive their name from one of the family having held the office of Falconer to *Bossu*: on the contrary, it seems plain both from the Pedigree subjoined, and from a statement of the tenure of the manor, shortly to be given, that they bore that name in the time of the Conqueror. Should this view be correct, it will serve to show the high importance of the Forest at the time of the Norman Conquest; as it may fairly be inferred that it was either William himself, or Hugh Grentesmaisnell, who conferred the office which gave the Falconers their name and the grant by which they held the manor, and that Robert Bossu's grant was only a confirmation.

"In 1344, John Fauconer, Knt., was the owner of Gayton, co. Stafford, Bretrichfield, Little Longden, Tolynsey, Yeldersley, Oxendon, Raynham, and tenements called Mapplewell, co. Derby."* This John Falconer, who was of Thurcaston, occurs as a witness to four deeds of William de Ferrariis, without date, of lands in Charnwood Forest, and is there called *Miles*.†

In 1346, Thomas le Falkener, on the aid then granted to Edward of Woodstock, the King's eldest son, was assessed 10s. for a quarter of a Knight's fee in Thurcaston, parcel of the honour of Leicester.‡

In 1355, William Stoke, Bishop of Rochester, gave to John Falconer the manors of Thurcaston, Bretrichfield, and Clayham, and tenements in Mapplewell, co. Derby.

In 1384 occurs the statement already alluded to, as proving that the name and office were antecedent to the times of Robert Bossu:—"By the grave advise of the counsell of the most drede lorde the kinge of Castile and Ligion, duke of Lancaster, &c., it is declared that his tennant and servant John Fawconer, of Thurcaston; that whereas he houldeth the mannor of Thurcaston of the said lord, as of the honour of Leicester, contayning two yerd lands holden of the Forest of Weynostre, by petty serjeancy: that is to say, to keep two

* Esch., 18 Edward III.

† Le Neve, Norroy, 1722.

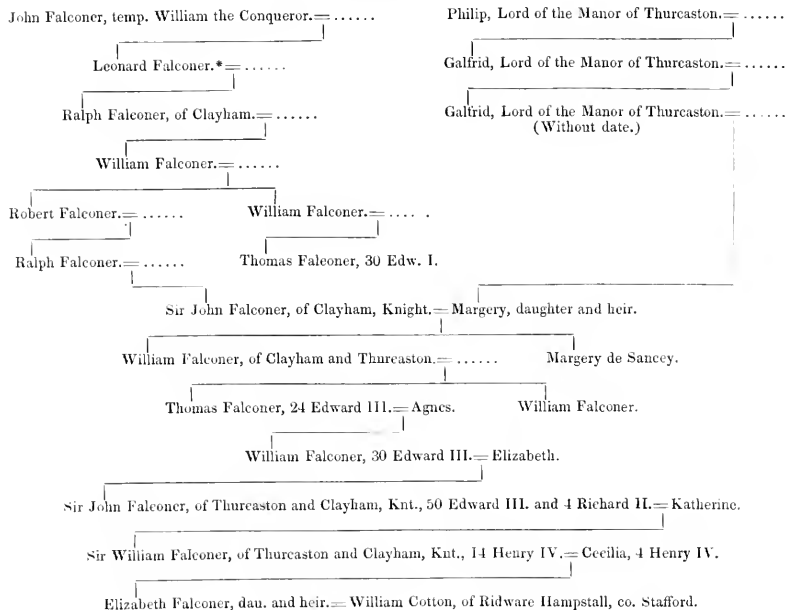
‡ Nichols, Vol. III., page 1055.

falcons gemell of the sayde lord's; so that he the sayde John Fawconer doe bring to the sayde dreade lorde for every falcon 11*d.* the day, and a payne liverye hound a halfpenny a day: and doe find to his oune body III suites of apparell by the year, and for his portion II rokcs. And when he shall be in the howse of his sayde lord, he shall have for himself and his people, meat, drinke, wine, hay, and otes for three horses, &c. If none of the said three horses remayne in the howse, in his said lord's service, he shall have the valewe; and if he be in flight with the falcons with his lord, he shall find every XV dayes a quarter of wheat and a quarter of pees and Cs. in money *pour la cuisyne*. And it hath pleased the said counsell to declare, that the said services hath bin done to the said lorde and Alice senyoure de Mountford, countesse of Leicestre, by Thomas Fawknor and his auncestors at

PEDIGREE OF FALCONER, OF THURCASTON.

(FROM NICHOLS.)

ARMS:—Argent, three falcons, Sable.



* By the deed given, this should have been Scanard. But the whole Pedigree is singularly at variance with Nichols' and Burton's statements; indeed, it may be inferred from it, that the Falconers first obtained possession of Thurcaston by marriage with the heiress of the lord of that place.

all tymes after the Conquest; that is to say, by William Fauconer the father to Thomas, by John the father to William, by Robart father to John, by William father to Robart, by Raffé father to William, by Scanard father to Raffé, by Henry father to Scanard, by William father to Henry, temp. Will. Conq.; which William Fauconer, son and heire to John Fawknor, kn., did doe unto the queen of Navare in his tyme, and after to Earl Thomas, that deceased at Pomfrett, and after to Earle Henry his brother, and did acknowledge by fayelty the said services, that they gave not any thing in ayde to make his sonne a knight or to marry his daughter necessary; nor suite of courte: and yett it was shewed that the said lord might distrayne for reasonable ayde, and to make his sonne a knight, against the tennur aforesayd: for which the said John humbly besought the said grave councill that right be donne him, or God and in charity, Anno 1348, 8 Ric. II.*

The above document is, in every way, one of great interest: showing, as it does, the almost regal state of the Earls of Leicester and the nature of feudal services.†

Elizabeth Falconer, daughter of Sir William Falconer (see Pedigree in preceding page), carried the manor by marriage to the Cottons or Cotons of Hamstall Ridware (temp. Henry V.)

In 1478, John Coton, Esq., died seised of the manor of Thurcaston, held of the King as of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Richard Coton was his grandson and next heir. This Richard married Joan, daughter of Sir William Brereton, Knight, and by her had Thomas (who had only issue Elizabeth, who died s. p.) and four daughters:—Maud, married to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, of Norbury, co. Derby, Knight, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas; Eleanor, the second, married to William Venables, Baron of Kinderton, Nottinghamshire; Catherine, the third, married to Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, Cheshire; and Isabel, married to John Bradbourn, of Hough, co. Derby. The inheritance descending to these four daughters, upon partition made, this manor with the advowson was allotted to Mr. Grosvenor, whose heir, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Knight and Baronet, aliened it to William Palmer, of London, Esq., whose descendant, Sir George Joseph Palmer, Bart., is still its possessor.‡

From the Falconers, therefore, the present Marquis of Westminster, the Earl of Wilton, and Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., derive descent: and it appears probable, from the following inscription, in raised letters, still legible on an outside beam of a house in this village, that a branch of the family resided here:—

THYS HOWS WAS BOYLDED ANNO D'NI 1568 IN YE I. YER OF YE
RAIGN OF OWRE SOVERAIGN LADYE QUENE ELIZABETH BY ME NYCHIO-
LAS GRAVNO.

A branch of the Falconers of Thurcaston appears to have been seated at Glaston, Rutlandshire, about 1604; and Thomas Falconer held, in 1630, the manor of Snareston,

* Visitation of Staffordshire in 1583; Harl. MSS. 612, 8, f. 33.

† It appears by Burton's manuscript that "Robert Falconer, a descendant of the house of Falconer of Thurcaston, was seised of lands in Anstey in the time of Henry VI."

‡ Nichols, Vol. III., Part II., p. 1055 (quoting Shaw's History of Staffordshire for his authority).—An epitaph of Joan Cotton, in the Church of Hamstall Ridware, dated 1517, exactly confirms the above statement.

Leicestershire, by marrying Elizabeth, relict of Edward Charnells, Esq.*—I cannot help noticing here a remarkable parallel case with respect to the name of a noble Scottish family—the Falconers of Halkertoun—from whom descend the Earls of Kintore, Lords Falconer. Of these Debrett says, “the Falconers of Halkertoun derive their descent from Ranulphus filius Walteri de Lunkyir, who obtained the office of King’s Falconer from William the Lion, from whom he got a grant of the lauds of Luthra, Balbegno, &c., near the Castle of Kincardine, where King William frequently resided: *from this office he assumed the name of Falconer.*” So precisely similar were the two cases, and, till within the last century, so nearly alike were the arms borne by the two families (Falcons, gules), that they have more than once been confounded, and even have been conjectured to have had a common ancestor about the time of Henry the Second. It is remarkable that the Scotch Falconers are stated to have obtained their office and name in the same reign that the “Feodary book,” cited by Burton, states the English family of that name to have obtained theirs. Can it be that the coincidence with regard to time, led to the error into which Burton, guided by the Feodary, evidently fell, in fixing the rise of the Falconers of Thurcaston so late as the time of Henry the Second? Or can it be that William the Lion, after his return from the English Court (where Tytler says he long sojourned), imitated the custom he had observed of having a Royal Falconer? Or that he induced one of the Falconer family to introduce falconry into Scotland? Many Falconers claiming descent from the Scottish family have long been settled in England, and have intermarried with some of our best families, as will be seen by the note subjoined.†

* See Nichols’ West Goscote, p. 1045.—The Rev. John W. R. Boyer, long the respected Incumbent of Quorndon and Woodhouse, and now Rector of Sweptstone, descends, through his mother, from the ancient family of Charnells—at one time one of the most considerable in this county.

† JOHN FALCONER (grandson of Lord Halkertoun, of Halkertoun) married Mary Dalmahoy (granddaughter of Sir John Dalmahoy, by his wife Barbara Lindsay, niece of the Earl of Crauford). He was the author of “Cryptogamia Patefacta”—was a firm adherent to James II.—was confined in Edinburgh Castle and attainted—and having escaped, died in James’s service at St. Germain en Laye. His lady having left him on account of a difference in religion, brought her two sons, William and James, to Chester, of which place William afterwards became Recorder.

WILLIAM married his first cousin, Rachel Wilbraham, and had issue by her *Thomas*, Editor of the Oxford Strabo (obt. s. r.), and *William*, M.D. of Bath, who by Henrietta, dau. of — Edmonds, Esq., of Worsbro’ Hall, had an only son *Thomas*, married to Frances Raitt, and a daughter *Mary*,¹ married to the Rev. Charles Mainwaring, of Bomboro’ Hall, Cheshire. This *Thomas* Falconer, who died in 1839, left issue—1. William, now Rector of Bushey, Hertfordshire; 2. *Thomas*, a Barrister; 3. *Alexander* Pytts; 4. *John* David; 5. *Randle* Wilbraham, M.D., Bath;² and two daughters; one of whom, *Henrietta*, is the lady of J. A. Roebuck, Esq., M.P.

JAMES, R.N.,³ the other son of the above-named John Falconer, married, in 1724, Elizabeth, dau. of William Inge, of Thorpe Constantine, Esq. (the able Antiquary), and had by her one daughter, *Elizabeth*, mar. to Thomas Pennant, Esq., of Downing, Flint. (the celebrated Naturalist)—and one son *James*, D.D., late Prebendary of Lichfield and Archdeacon of Derby, who married Miss Hall, of Hermitage, co. Chester, sister of the lady of William Inge, Esq., grandson of the above gentleman of that name. Archdeacon Falconer left four daughters, co-heiresses, of whom the present Mrs. Pearson,⁴ of Hill Ridware, co. Stafford, is the eldest, and Lady Miles (wife of Colonel Sir Edward Miles, who distinguished himself in the Siamese war) is the youngest.

¹ Called “The Flower of Cheshire.”

² Now of Tenby.

³ Died 1738—buried in St. Mary’s Chapel, Chester.

⁴ Mother of the present Christian Advocate at Cambridge.

The Earldom of Kintore, had the present Peer been without issue, would have devolved on a member of one of these families.

I have dwelt thus long on the family or families, because falconry was one of the pursuits of the middle ages that probably threw a greater charm over the real landscape than even that it has imparted to pictorial representations. It has added, too, its share to poetical description. Rogers beautifully alludes to such a scene as must have often been witnessed on the borders of our ancient Forest:—

————— “ All announced
The chase as over: and ere long appeared
Their horses, full of fire, champing the curb,
For the white foam was dry upon the flank.
Two in close converse, each in each delighting,
Their plumage waving as instinct with life,
A lady young and graceful and a youth
Yet younger, bearing on a Falconer's glove,
As in the golden, the romantic time,
A falcon hooded.”*

As the birth-place of Bishop Latimer and the Lord Keeper Wrighte, and the Incumbency of Hurd, before he was raised to the mitre, Thurcaston deserves a more lengthened notice, but I have merely space to remind the reader of the celebrity that attaches to the village from its connexion with these excellent men. Nor were they the only worthies of whom Thurcaston has reason to be proud; the Wrightes, the Alfounders,† the Hills,‡ the Arnalds,§ Rectors of this place, were men of distinguished talents and virtues.

THE CHURCH

is a venerable structure, and contains many ancient and modern monumental inscriptions. The font, at which Latimer was made a member of the Church, which he afterwards so eminently adorned, is naturally an object of great interest to the stranger. In the east window of the north aisle is the representation of a Castle, which Mr. Nichols conjectured to have been that of Mountsorrel; above it is

MARGARETA: FI

Burton says there were, in his time, many armorial bearings in this Church: and in the north-east window a shield, Argent, three falcons gules, beside a figure kneeling, under which were the words

WILL'ELMUS FALCONER.

* Italy, page 134.

† Descended from John Alfounder, who distinguished himself at Bosworth Field on the side of the Earl of Richmond.

‡ The Rev. Richard Hill, B.D., founder of Thurcaston School.

§ Richard Arnald, B.D., a distinguished Divine; his son William was in 1776 appointed Preceptor to the Prince of Wales and Duke of York.

SWITHLAND.

(*Swythelonde, Swithelounds, Swethlond.*)

This lordship is situated between the Forest and Rothley Plain, and appears to have been in early times a member of Groby, to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of which it is still subject. It is not separately noticed in Domesday book, but must have been included, Mr. Nichols supposes, in the General Survey, under some of the adjacent lordships of Hugo de Grentesmaisnell, as he bestowed the Church on the Abbey of St. Ebrulph. The name of the village seems to have been derived from *Swith*, a cleft slate; by which name thin cleavings of slate are still called in the North.

From Grentesmaisnell the lordship descended regularly through the Earls of Leicester to Margaret, sister and co-heiress of Robert de Bellomont, the last Earl of that race: which Margaret brought it in marriage to Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton, though the right to it was afterwards contested by the representatives of her sister.*

In 1255 (Nichols, from a note of, in the Visitation of 1619, erroneously states in 1270) Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton, granted to Robert le Waleys† divers liberties, view of frankpledge, &c., for his land in Swithland: "yielding therefore to us, at our Court of Groby, yearly £22. 4s. 8d." This is the first connexion of the Waleys family with this place, as far as I can ascertain. I have been enabled to correct the date from a copy of the deed, adduced with several others in evidence at the Forest Inclosure, and shall also have it in my power, by the same means, to reconcile several discrepancies in Nichols' account of this manor.‡

Among these deeds there occurs, A.D. 1277, a "Record of a Chapel," built by Robert Waleys, Lord of the Manor of Swithland, by which the Abbot and Convent of St. Ebrulph, patrons of the Mother Church, dating from "Dinton farm, on the Tuesday before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude, A.D. 1277," gave leave that "by License from the Bishop of Lincoln he might have a Chaplain at his own proper charges," in the Chapel lately built in his Court of Swithland the Mother Church, in their patronage, being secured in all things and indemnified.

* Nichols says *his* sister; but the following extract, which he gives from the *Plac. de temp. Ric. II., in Recept. Scacc. Ret. 6*, seems to warrant a different pronoun. "Assisa venit recognitura si Robertus Comes Leic' frater Margarete uxoris comitis Winton seisisus fuit in dominico suo ut de feodo de centum acris terre, cum pertinentiis, in Swithland, die quo obiit; et si prædicta Margareta propinquior heres ejus sit; quam terram Willielmus Falconer tenet; Qui venit et dicit assisa inde non debere, quia prædicta Margareta *habet sororem* que adeo magnum jus habet in terrâ illâ sicut ipsa Margareta, de qua non fit mentio in brevi," &c.

† This family was very early located at Wanlip. Walleis, Wales, Waleys, Welles, Walshe, le Waleshe, le Whalleys, Welsh, and probably Wallace and Wallis, are all different modes of spelling the same name. Bishop Welles is often spelt Walleis.

‡ I beg to assure the reader that I notice these errors of our confessedly great Historian neither in a captious nor an exulting spirit; feeling, in my own humble labours, the great difficulty of avoiding inaccuracies, it has more frequently been a cause of surprise that Mr. Nichols, in such a work as his, was generally so accurate, than that occasional mistakes should be detected.

In 1314 occurs a grant from Edward II. to Oliver le Waleys, son of Robert, of free warren in Swytheland and Dalby-on-the-Wolds, with reservation of "that part within the metes of our Forest."*

In 1327 a discharge from Oliver le Waleys to the Parson of East Bridgford, of £22. 4s. 8d. (the exact sum which his father was to pay at the Court of Groby), for the Manor and Court of Swithland, with the view of frankpledge, and with the Park of Querndon, "which he holds of me," &c.

In 1346 John de Waleis (on the aid granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock) was assessed 2s. for a twentieth part of a Knight's fee in Swithland, *parcel of the Honour of Winton*.

In 1362 occurs a "Grant from Sir John Waleys, Knt., to Nicholas Waleys his brother, of the manor of Swithland and Brounshay." The heirs of this John Waleys, in 1371 held, of William de Ferrars of Groby, 27 virgates of land in Swithland, which in 1387 it was found that Henry de Ferrars of Groby, Knt., was seised of, and which Sir John de Walcote, Knt. (son of Geoffrey de Walcote, of Walcote, in the parish of Misterton) then held; he having married Elizabeth, the daughter and sole heiress of the above Sir John Waleys. Sir John Walcote left two daughters, co-heiresses, Margaret (Nichols says Elizabeth) and Alice. The former, he states in the pedigree of Walleis (Vol. III., p. 1047) to have married John Danvers, and makes her husband possessed of a moiety of the manor in right of his wife, in 3 Henry VI. (1425)—while he states, from the Danvers pedigree engraved in brass in Swithland Church, that this John Danvers was *born* in the 30th of Henry VI. (1452)!

Now among the documents in my possession above referred to, I find a copy of a deed, dated 2 Henry VI. (1424), and indorsed "Deed of Partition of the Manor of Swithland, between Margaret and Alice, the daughters and co-heirs of Elizabeth Walcote," by which it is evident that Margaret was, at that time, wife of Thomas Asheton, and Alice wife of Richarde Hubarde.†

In 9 Henry VI. (1431) Thomas Asheton and Margaret his wife granted their moiety of the manor to John Charyte and others, by whom it was conveyed to Thomas Asheton for his life, and after his death to John Danvers and his sister Agnes in tail; but if they both should die childless, then "to the right heirs of Sir John Waleys, Knt." In a subsequent deed, dated 1460, John Danvers confirmed this moiety, "which I had of inheritance after the decease of *Margaret my mother*," to Thomas Farnham, Esq. and William Leyke, as Trustees. It appears, therefore, that John Danvers was the first husband of Margaret (not Elizabeth) Walcote—that he died leaving two children, John and Agnes—that after his death his relict entered into a second marriage with Thomas Asheton—and that the deed

* Some of the witnesses to this grant were the most remarkable men of their times. Adomar de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke; Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; Hugh le Despenser the elder; Ralph Bassett, and John de Crumbewell.

† It would seem that Elizabeth Walcote had, after the death of her first husband, Sir John Walcote, re-married William Byspham; for, by a deed dated 6 Henry IV., 1405, that person and Elizabeth his wife conveyed "our manor of Swytheland," &c., to John Leventhorpe, Geoffrey Powtrel and others, as Trustees; and another deed shows that the said Trustees, in 1428, conveyed the same to Alice, wife of Richard Hubard, and Margaret, wife of Thomas Asheton.

of 1435 was to secure the said Thomas a life-interest in the estate, his wife Margaret being then dead.

John Danvers, son of the said John and Margaret, married *Anne*, fourth sister of Sir Ralph Shirley, though in the Danvers pedigree in Swithland Church (hereafter to be given) her name is written "Margaret." Both Sir Joseph Danvers, the compiler of the above-named pedigree, and Mr. Nichols, were misled by a note upon the Herald's visitation of 1619, where Mr. Francis Danvers had remarked (Nichols, Vol. III., p. 1053), "I find not that the said John Danvers married this Margaret, otherwise than by conjecture; but I find that at the death of this Margaret, the half manor of Swithland was given by certain feoffees to *Thomas Aston* during his life, without impeachment of waste, and after his death to John Danvers in tail. FRANCIS DANVERS." From this "Deed of Partition," already referred to, no doubt can exist that the Margaret through whom the manor of Swithland came to the Danvers family, was one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Elizabeth Walcote: and that Nichols called her Elizabeth—confounding her with her mother. These extraordinary mistakes may perhaps justify this long attempt to rectify errors by no means trivial.*

The above Francis Danvers died owner of the chief part of Swithland in 1631; and was succeeded by William Danvers, Esq., who died in 1686; and whose son Henry died in the following year, and grandson Samuel in 1693. Joseph Danvers, Esq., son of Samuel, next succeeded. He represented Boroughbridge, Bramber, and Totness, in different Parliaments; was advanced to the dignity of a Baronet in 1746; and dying October 26, 1753, was succeeded by his son, Sir John Danvers, Bart., who married Mary, the eldest of the two daughters and co-heirs of Joel Watson, Esq., of London, by whom he had four sons and two daughters. He died Sept. 21, 1796, and bequeathed the greater part of his landed estates to his only surviving child, Mary, wife of the Hon. Augustus Richard Butler (second son of the Earl of Lanesborough), who afterwards, by royal license, took the name of Danvers. John George Danvers Butler Danvers, Esq., the offspring of this marriage, and heir presumptive to the titles and estates of the Earl of Lanesborough, is the present justly-respected owner of both moieties. So much of the history of this ancient family will be found in the epitaph and pedigree, that a longer account here seems altogether uncalled for.

An Act for the inclosure of the parish was obtained in 1798, in which George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, is described as Lord of the Manor and Ecclesiastical Peculiar Exempt Jurisdiction of Groby, and the Hon. A. R. Butler Danvers as entitled to divers manorial rights and privileges within the said parish.

THE CHURCH

is a very venerable-looking edifice, erected, doubtless, prior to 1277: when, as has before been shown, a license was granted to Robert le Waleys to erect a private Chapel in his own Court at Swithland. The Danvers Chapel, built by Sir Joseph Danvers in 1727, is appropriated to the interment of that family. On the brass plates of a flat stone in the vestry is

* In the pedigree of Danvers of Frolesworth (Vol. IV., p. 189), the correct name *Margaret* is given; but her father is incorrectly called *William*, though in the Walcote pedigree (ib. p. 318) he is properly named *John*.

the figure of a female, veiled, and standing with her hands lifted up in the attitude of prayer, and beneath the figure the following somewhat unintelligible inscription :—

**Vox in conclave jacet Agnes Scott camerata,
Antrix Devota Domine Ferrers vocitata ;
Quisquis eris qui transieris, queso, funde precata :
Sum quod eris fueramque quod es ; pro me, precor, ora.**

“ In the east window of the Chancel,” says Burton, “ is her picture in glass, drawn to the life in the same habit, with a ring on her finger. This Agnes Scott, as I guess, was an Anchoress, and the word *Antrix* in this epitaph coined from *Antrum*, a cave wherein she lived ; and certainly (as I have been credibly informed) there is a cave near Leicester, upon the west side of the town, at this day called *Black Agnes’s Bower*.” The tradition gave rise to a beautiful short poem (given in Nichols) from the pen of the late Lieutenant John Heyrick.* The reader will not blame me for departing from my rule with regard to monumental inscriptions, in another instance connected with Swithland. The epitaph of Sir John Danvers, in capital letters, on white marble, is of so extraordinary a character, that it would be wrong to omit it. It was erected in the life-time of him to whose memory it is inscribed.

THE BODY OF SIR JOHN DANVERS, BART.

Who departed this life about the 18th century

was deposited under the small blue stone at the foot of this monument.

He was the only son of Sir Joseph Danvers, Bart. by Frances his wife, daughter of Thomas Babington, of Rothley Temple, in this county, Esq. Sir Joseph was the son of Samuel Danvers, Esq.

by Elizabeth Morewood, an heiress, of Overton in the county of Derby ; who, surviving her husband, married John Danvers, of Prescott Manor, in the county of Oxford, Esq., the only son and heir of Sir John Danvers, of Whichwood Forest, in the said county, Knight.

Sir John was the only brother and heir of Henry Danvers Earl of Danby, a General Officer, and Knight of the Garter, founder of the Physic-garden at Oxford, a fast friend and loyal adherent of Charles the First ; in whose reign and service he died without issue.

These two brothers were sons of Sir John Danvers, Knight, by Elizabeth, daughter of John Nevill Lord Latimer, son-in-law of Queen Katherine Parr. The Earl was the friend of the King ; but

Sir John was the friend of the Constitution ; and in the violent struggles which ensued, sided with that band of Patriots who thought Liberty could not be too dearly bought though at the expense of Royal blood. His death happening before the Restoration sheltered him from persecution ; but his son, who was an infant when the King was beheaded, saw his paternal estates, to the amount of ten thousand pounds a year, in the counties of Oxford and Wilts, in the hands of strangers. The small portion of his patrimony which escaped the rapacity of the Court, that son left to Sir Joseph Danvers

* Henry Skott occurs as a witness to grant of the manor of Swytheland, 1428, 6 Henry VI. John Scott, of Swithland, is a witness to the deed of 1460, before cited.

for life, and to Sir John in tail. He was happy in his choice: Sir Joseph was an able supporter of the Protestant cause. He was in Parliament near thirty years in the reign of George the Second; was a Deputy Lieutenant and acting Justice of Peace for this county; and, with his wife, lies buried in a tomb in this church-yard. Sir John, his son, thought proper to tread in the steps of his Protestant ancestors, and seized every opportunity of shewing his attachment to their religious and civil principles. His bounty beautified this Church and rebuilt the Parsonage. In all political contests he uniformly gave his support to the friends of the Protestant interest and assertors of Revolution Principles, deeming them in conjunction the best pledges and securities for his temporal welfare and eternal happiness.

Et genus et proavos et quæ non fecimus ipsi
Vix ea nostra voco.

Stemmata quid faciunt? quid prodest, Pontice, longo
Sanguine censeri, pietosque ostendere vultus
Majorum?

Nobilitas sola est atque unica Virtus.

PEDIGREE OF THE DANVERS FAMILY.

Placed by the side of Sir John's tomb, in Swithland Church.

1. Norman Alverse, a Brabanter. He came into England in aid of William the Conqueror, Anno Domini 1066, and married one of the daughters of Torold, son of Jeffery the Saxon.
2. Hugh Danvers lived in the time of Henry I., and married Felice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Sankville, of Frolesworth, co. Leicester.
3. Bertram Danvers, of Frolesworth, co. Leicester, married Alice, the relict of Robert de Barton.
4. Hugo Danvers, of Frolesworth, co. Leicester, was born the 18th of Henry III.
5. Stephen Danvers, Lord of the Manor of Frolesworth, co. Leicester. He was born 43 Henry III.
6. Robert Danvers was born the 8th of Edward I.
Nicholas Danvers married Isabella, the daughter of Sir Robert Burdett, Knight, 14 Edward II.
Joan Danvers, daughter and heiress, married Joseph Armory, of Maldon, co. Essex, 15 Edward III.
7. Robert Danvers, of Shackerston, co. Leicester.
8. William Danvers, of Shackerston, co. Leicester, was born the 6th of Edward II.
9. Henry Danvers.
10. John Danvers was born the 29th of Edward III.
11. John Danvers was born the 16th of Richard II.
12. John Danvers, by the right of his wife, of Swithland, co. Leicester, was born the 30th of Henry VI., and married Elizabeth,* the daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Walcot, Knt.
13. Thomas Danvers married Alicia, the daughter of — Venables, Baron of Kinderton, 20 Henry VII.
14. John Danvers married Margaret,† the daughter of Sir Ralph Shirley, Knt., of Staunton, co. Leicester.
15. Francis Danvers married Margaret, the daughter of — Kingston, of the county of Gloucester.
16. John Danvers, of Swithland, co. Leicester, was born the 2nd of Edward VI.; married Isabella, the daughter of Richard Coke, of Trusley, co. Derby.

* This has been shown to be an error.

† This, too, has been shown to be an error for *Anne*.

Anna, married Fr. Mulso, of Twywell, co. Northampton.

Elizabeth, married — Mounsall, of Burton, co. Northampton.

Dorothy, married Arthur Beresford, of Shackerston, co. Leicester.

17. Francis Danvers married Elizabeth, daughter of John Skeavington, of Fiskerwich, Stafford; died 1631.

John Danvers married the daughter of — Allen, and died Oct. 26, 1674, aged 77 years.

Francis Cumberland, of Oxley, co. Stafford, married Elizabeth Danvers.

18. William Danvers married Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Babington, of Rothley, Nov. 1618; died 1656.

William Danvers married the daughter of — Harpur, of the county of Derby.

Ann Danvers married — Hallows, co. Nottingham.

Margaret Danvers married Gabriel Taylor, Gent., of Wales.

Catharine Danvers married Josias Beesly, Gent., 31st March, 1655.

Elizabeth Danvers married William Palmer, of Wanlip.

19. Henry Danvers married the 13th of March, 1664, Ann, the third daughter of Joseph Coke, of Melbourne, Knight, and relict of Henry Sacheverell, of Morley, co. Derby.

20. Samuel Danvers married Elizabeth, the daughter of Joseph Morewood, merchant, of London, by Elizabeth Blundell, co-heiress of — Woodcock, of Shenfield, co. Berks, December 20, 1683; died 1693.

Anna Danvers married John Palmer, of Wanlip.

Eleanor Danvers.

21. Joseph Danvers was married Dec. 7, 1721, to Frances, the second daughter of Thomas Babington, of Rothley, co. Leicester.

Frances Danvers.

Lucy Danvers.*

Catherine Danvers.

Fanny Danvers.

22. John Danvers was married Oct. 10, 1752, to Mary Watson, the daughter and heiress of Joel Watson, Esquire, of London, merchant.

Susannah Danvers.

William Danvers,

Joseph Danvers.

Mary Danvers.

Henry Danvers.

John Watson Danvers.

The living is in the patronage of the Crown, and the present Rector is the Rev. Edward Thomas Paget, M.A., a relative of the Marquis of Anglesey.

The residence of the owners of Swithland was, till the present generation, situated near the Church. It was a considerable pile, but so surrounded on all sides, even in front, by stables, dovecots, and high walls, and so close to the public road, that the present proprietor has judiciously pulled it down, and erected on higher ground a mansion more suited to the taste of the age. The site has been well chosen, affording many interesting views of the surrounding country, particularly of the Eastern Forest. Nor should the wondrous slate-quarries on the Forest side be forgotten. Under the able management of the respectable family of Hind, the working of these has been brought to a degree of perfection which, added to their excellent quality, has rendered Swithland slates an article of demand in all parts of the kingdom, while the numerous excavations have greatly added to the picturesque character of the locality in which they are situated.

* Married to Colonel the Hon. John Grey, uncle to the Earl of Stamford, and died in 1799.

ROECLIFF

(Roeclyffe, Rowcliff.)

ROECLIFF is an ancient manor appendant to that of Swithland, but lying *within* the boundary of the Forest. It is said to have derived its name from the circumstance of its having been a stocking or hunting-ground for the roe in the days of the Earls of Leicester. That it was a lawnd or *vivarium* seems also extremely probable from the following account of its ancient boundary, a part of which was evidently a high embankment surrounded with oak palings:—

“Fines Manerii de Roeclyffe:—Imprimis incipiunt ad angulum istum saltûs de Swythelond qui spectat ad Septentrionem et orientem et sequendo agger antiquum, terrâ congestum, quod extendit se occidentaliter ad angulum occidentalem ejusdem saltûs: et abhinc sequendo prædictum agger terrenum ad angulum meridiocalem ejusdem: et inde orientaliter sequendo prædictum agger *lignis roboreis septum*, ad roborarium inter saltum prædictum et Forestam ad angulum saltûs de Swythelond ubi incipiunt, &c., ut in inquisitione,” &c.*

Roeclyff, with some adjacent property, was purchased from the Danvers family by the father of its present possessor, Sir William Heygate, Bart. It was, at that period, one of the dreariest and most neglected spots on the Forest; it has now, by a judicious combination of landscape gardening and farm culture with the wild natural scenery, become one of the most beautiful. A handsome and finely seated mansion (now undergoing considerable extension and improvement), sheltered by thriving plantations—most picturesque pleasure-grounds, and a well-cultivated farm, are the present features of the domain which, in the last century, might appropriately have been described in three words—

“Lapis omnia nudus.”

The whole may justly be termed the worthy Baronet’s own creation. The happy taste which knows how so gently to blend landscape gardening with all the stern characteristics of mountain scenery as to produce a harmonious and beautiful whole, is well exemplified at Roeclyff Manor.

Benscliff (where was discovered the Celt engraved in these pages and described under Antiquities), Bradgate Park, Swithland slate quarries, Long Dale, and many of the most striking features of the Forest, are all in the immediate neighbourhood of Roeclyff: and there are points of view afforded from various parts of the domain, from which, perhaps, Charnwood presents some of its loveliest forms. It should be added that, when the mansion was being erected, it was confidently predicted that the severities of the winter and the general keenness of the Forest breezes would render it almost uninhabitable. No opinion could be more erroneous. The air is, in a remarkable degree, genial and salubrious, and the wild vernal flowers are always considerably earlier than those in the valleys; so that “the poet’s glowing thought,” with a slight modification, may not unaptly be applied to ROECLIFF:—

“There will the morn her earliest tears bestow,
There the first roses of the year will blow.”

* From an ancient document produced at the Forest inclosure.

ULVESCROFT, OR ULVERSCROFT.

(*Osolrescroft, Olrescroft, Woolrescroft, Woulstorp, Oulvescroft, Alwayscrofte Ullescroit, Ullescross.*)

I do love these ancient ruins!
 We never tread upon them but we set
 Our foot upon some reverend history;
 And, questionless, here in this open court
 (Which now lies open to the injuries
 Of stormy weather) some do lie interred,
 Loved the Church so well, and gave so largely to't,
 They thought it should have canopied their bones
 Till doomsday; but all things have their end,
 Churches and cities (which have diseases like to men)
 Must have like death that we have.—*Webster's Duchess of Malfy*

ULVESCROFT is an extra-parochial lordship, situated in the southern extremity of the Forest, two miles west of Bradgate, and is at the present time, as it must have been in the olden day, the most interesting domain within the boundary. It contains 1358 acres, and its Royalty over the Forest extends over nearly 700 acres. "At Ullescroit," says Burton, "standing on Charnwood Forest, in a dearme and solitary place, Robert Blanchmains, Earl of Leicester, temp. Hen. II. founded a small Priory for Eremites of the Order of St. Augustine, which (besides the lands given to it by the founder) had the manor of Carlton Curlew, in this county; 12 messuages and 12 yard lands in Shenton; the advowson of the Church of Boney, co. Notts., and those of Syston and Radcliffe in this county."* Mr. Nichols, however, from a sentence occurring in a Bull of Alexander III., dated 1174, shows that the Priory was founded by Robert Bossu.†

Leland appears to have fallen into a still greater error on this subject, for he styles Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winton, *fundator primus*, and the Marquis of Dorset *fundator modernus*.‡ Certainly both the Earl and Margaret his mother bestowed very considerable benefactions on the Priory.§

In 1271 Earl Roger died seized of the advowson, and Eleanor de Vaux, his third wife and relic, daughter of William de Ferrariis, Earl of Derby, held both this advowson and that of Charley in dower.¶ William, the first Lord Ferrars of Groby, younger son of the above Earl of Derby, by his second wife, Margaret de Quincy, daughter and co-heir of

* Burton's manuscript.

† The sentence is "Præterea jura, dignitates et libertates illas quas ecclesia nostra à quadraginta retrò annis usque nunc rationabiliter noscitur habuisse," &c., which forty years deducted from the date of the Bull would plainly refer the foundation to the time of Bossu.

‡ *Collectanea*, Vol. I., page 34.

§ The Countess gave to Prior Walter and the Monks "totam terram quæ continetur in Richul et in Bissopeshull in longitudine usque vetus fossatum à Legahroc usque ad sepem Orchardie.—*From the Cartæ Antiquæ Harl. Manuscript*, 112, c. 27.

¶ Esch. 53 Henry III., No. 36, Leic.

Roger, Earl of Winton, succeeded, in right of his wife, to the Patronage, and was himself a great benefactor to the Priory.*

On an Inquisition taken at Lindeford in 1361, it was found to be of no prejudice, &c., if William de Ferrars granted 67 acres of waste in Groby to the Prior and Convent of Ulvescroft;† and in 1369 he obtained licence to bestow on the same Prior 7 messuages, with lands in Anstey, Cropston, Bradgate, and Stanton-under-Bardon.

In 1361 Bennet de Ulvescroft gave 12 messuages and 12 yard-lands at Shenton, by consent of Thomas de Astley and Elizabeth his wife, to the Priory.

William, the third Lord Ferrars of Groby, by his last will, dated June 1, 1368, bequeathed his "body to be buried in the Conventual Church of our Lady at Ulvescroft," and gave £100. to be distributed to the poor and for his funeral expenses, "wherat must be five tapers, four morters, and twenty-four torches." Both this Lord and his son held the advowson, as did William the fifth and last Lord Ferrars of Groby, who died May 17, 1455, and was interred here.

In 1465, as stated under Charley, the Priors of Ulvescroft and Charley were united.‡

In 1525 King Henry VIII. gave a lease for twenty-one years of the manor of Cheylesmore, Warwick, with the herbage of the Park and coneyes there, to Geoffrey Whalley, Prior of Ulvescroft; rent £13. 9s. 5d.§ This favour has been said to have been conferred in return for the hospitable entertainment afforded to Henry on his being benighted in the Forest. Tradition speaks of high carousal on the occasion.||

In the dissolution of the smaller Abbeys, &c., in 1534, Ulvescroft was of course included: but either on account of the reception given to the Sovereign, or through the following singular recommendation from one of the Commissioners for visiting Religious Houses, addressed to the Lord Cromwell, the order for its suppression was rescinded, and it was especially re-founded by King Henry VIII. :—

"The sure knowledge I have had always in your indifference giveth me boldness to

* "Concessi * * * quindecim acras, et dimidiam terre * * * infra Forestam de Charnwod, et cum haybote ad eandem terram includendam; videlicet duas et dimid. jacentes juxta clausum de Haldermanhawe ex parte occidentali, et quinque juxta croftum dicte domûs de Ulviscroft * * * et quinque juxta clausum molendini dicte domûs et tres inter le Leyefeld et clausum Novæ villæ juxta terram que vocatur Ulfpychala"—and again, by another deed, "octo acras et dimidiam acram terre jacentes inter campum ejusdem Prioris quod vocatur Bischopeshull ex unâ parte et Forestam meam de Charnwode ex alterâ * * * cum heicbote per visum forestariorum meorum."—*See two deeds given in Nichols, under Ulvescroft.*

† Ad quod dampn. 34 Edw. III.

‡ Tanner (Not. Mon. page 241) states, evidently incorrectly, that they were united by the Earl of Winton, in the time of Edward II.

§ Dugdale's Warwickshire, page 90.

|| In the Letters Patent granted by the King for the continuance of the Priory, occur some expressions that seem somewhat confirmatory of the belief that the favour may have been obtained in consequence of some act of hospitality shown to himself. The letters say, "Nos, volentes dictam domum de Ulvescroft * * * *pro diversis causis* nos ad presens specialiter moventibus, in suo pristino essentiali statu, &c., permanere, continuare, &c., * * ut * * * *hospitalitatem* et alia pietatis opera ibidem uberius exerceant, de gratiâ nostra spiritali ac *ex certa scientiâ* et mero motu nostris ordinavimus, &c., &c., quod predict' domus, &c., &c., in perpetuum continuabit," &c. It is true the expressions may be nothing but the usual phraseology.

write to you in the favour of the house of Woulstorp; the governor whereof is a very good husband for the house, and well beloved of all the inhabitants thereunto adjoining; a right honest man, having eight religious persons being Priests,* of right good conversation and living religiously—having sincere qualities of virtue as we have not found the like in no other place; for there is not one religious person there but that he can and doth use either embrothering, or writing books with very fair hand, making their own garnements, carving, painting, or graffing; the house without any slander or evil fame, and standing in a waste ground very solitary, keeping such hospitality that, except by singular good provision, it could not be maintained with half so much land more as they may spend; such a number of the poor inhabitants nigh thereunto daily relieved, that we have not seen the like, having no more land than they have. God be ever my judge as I do write unto you the truth, and none otherwise to my knowledge, which very pity alone causeth me to write! The premises whereof considered, in most humble wise I beseech you to be a mean unto the King's Majesty for the standing of the said Woulstorp, whereby his Grace shall do a myche gracious and a meritorious act for the relief of his poor subjects there; and ye shall be sure not only to have the continual prayers of those religious persons there, but also the hearty prayer of all the inhabitants within four or five miles about that house. And this, for lack of wytt, I am told to write unto you in the pleynes of my heart, as unto him that of all living creatures I have most assured and faithful trust in. So knoweth our Lord God; who have you in his most merciful tuition!

“From Garadon (Garendon), the XIX day of June.

“Your bounden bedeman at commandmant,

“GEORGE GYFFARD.”

A copy of the letters patent dated the 30th of January, 1536-7, granted to the Prior of the Priory of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Mary, of Alwayscroft or Olvescroft, is still in possession of the Lord of the Manor, the Rev. A. Lyon Emerson. After reciting the Act of the previous year, enacting that all Monasteries, &c., not possessed of lands, &c., beyond the clear annual value of £200. (Olvescroft, according to Speed, was valued at £101. 3s. 10½*d.*), should in right belong to, and be at the disposal of the Crown, the letters direct and declare that “the said Priory of Alwayscroft, of the Order of St. Augustin, shall for ever continue in its same body corporate, and without suppression or dissolution.” By the same letters Edward Dalbye was appointed to continue Prior.

Notwithstanding this, the Prior and his brethren were induced formally to surrender and deliver up the Priory into the King's hands, Sept. 15, 1539. The site and demesne lauds were at that time of the yearly value of £20. 16s. 4*d.*; out of which, with other deductions, there was an annual pension of 60s. to the Prior of Shene, Surrey. Various old documents show their possessions, advowsons, jurisdictions, franchises, &c., to have been considerable. Their personal property, also, was of some account; they had three hundred beasts, one thousand sheep, and sixty swine. Pensions both to the Prior and the brethren were, how-

* These were—Edward Dalby, Prior; Richard Eglate; Thomas Mason; William Bland; Thomas Wymondeswold; William Smythe; William Belton; George Smythe.—They subscribed the King's supremacy Sept. 17, 1534.

ever, assigned—to the first £20., and to the others sums varying from £6. to 40s. each. The outlay of the Monastery, when the smallness of its revenue is considered, seems almost unprecedented. A regular hunting establishment of hounds, greyhounds and hawks, with all the necessary officers, such as Huntsman, Falconer, &c., was kept up. Ten quarters of malt were brewed weekly, and the needy poor of the surrounding villages were relieved to an extent that makes one cease to wonder that the Poor-law of Elizabeth should be so closely consequent on the suppression of Monastic Institutions.

It appears by what is incidentally mentioned in several deeds of a comparatively later date, that Prior Dalby, before the final dissolution, foreseeing probably the insecurity of his tenure, had leased the Priory to Sir Richard Cromwell, Knt., who, after the surrender, sold the lease to Sir Andrew Judd; the fee simple bad, in the meantime, been granted to the Earl of Rutland by the Crown. This too, by purchase from the Earl, became the property of Sir Andrew, who in 1550 sold the estate to Henry Duke of Suffolk, by whose attainder the site of the Priory, &c., again reverted to the Crown. A record in the Exchequer, dated 1554, proves that Fredeswide Strelley, relict of Robert Strelley, Esq., and one of the Ladies of Queen Mary's Privy Chamber, was the next possessor of Ulvescroft and Charley, which she obtained by letters patent from the Queen, "to be held of the said Queen *in capite* by Knight's service; to wit, by the fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and at the yearly rent of £20. at Lady-day and Michaelmas, in equal portions." But the Prior, previously to the dissolution, having, as above shown, demised various lands upon lease, the lands given to Mrs. Strelley were not specified in the letters with sufficient exactness to prevent a dispute respecting the lands belonging to the late Priory and the hereditary lands of the late Duke of Suffolk. This dispute, at Mrs. Strelley's petition, gave rise to a commission under the great seal, dated Feb. 26, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary, "personally to view, enquire, and set out by the oaths of proper persons, taken before jurors, the lands which had belonged to the late Priory of Ulvescroft and those in the manors of Groby, Whitwick, Markfield, Shepeshed, Newtown and Bowmanor, then in the possession of Adrian Stocks, Esq. and Frances his wife, in right of the said Frances, and for the life of the said Frances, who was wife of the said Henry Duke of Suffolk, and at her decease reverting to the Crown, in consequence of the said Duke having been convicted of high treason." The Commissioners were—Andrew Noell, Henry Sayyle, William Fawnte, George Vincent, John Hunt, Michael Purefoy, George Sherarde, and Libeus Derby, Esqrs. Some of the facts elicited by this commission throw so much light on the later history of the Priory, and on the habits of its inmates, that their non-insertion here would be inexcusable.

Thomas Massey, Clerk, the last Sub-Prior of the Priory, of the age of 65, sworn and examined, saith to the first interrogatory, "that 51 years ago he came to the said Priory, and there remained two years and a half before his profession there, and there hath inhabited ever since till the dissolution of the said house: and knoweth the house of Charley, for he celebrated the holy mass there sixteen years altogether upon Easter-day." To the third interrogatory he saith, "that to his knowledge he never knew or understood any of the said Priors to suffer any other person but their own servants to fell, lop, or carry away any wood, thorns, furzes, &c., within any of the woods, lands, or wastes belonging to the said Priory,

but divers times he hath known divers offenders in the premises who have asked the Prior there for the time being forgiveness, and have been forgiven." To the sixth he saith, "that the said Prior, time out of mind, hath had a common without number appurtenant to the said Priory, in all places throughout all the Forest of Charnwood, at all times and by the whole year, for all their oxen, kine, sheep, goats, horses, swine, and all other cattle and pawnage, likewise for all their swine; insomuch, that at the first survey, before the surrender, &c., they had belonging to the Convent 300 head of beasts, 1000 sheep, and 60 swine, and for the staff holding the Prior of Ulvescroft had always a shepherd and a swineherd, who did nothing else, but followed and looked to the cattle without contradiction; whereas he knoweth not that any other commoner, except the Abbot of Garrodon and the Prioress of Gracedewe, had any shepherd or swineherd." To the seventh he saith, "that the said Priors, during all his time there, have kept hounds, greyhounds, and hawks of their own, and did hunt, course, and hawk throughout the waste of Charnwood unto the saulte of the Parks of Bradgate, Groby, and Loughborough; that is to say, fallow deer, roe, foxes, hares, &c., and likewise did hawke at the partridges and pheasants, and for those purposes they kept a huntsman, and they had a special grant from Roger Therle of Queneye, lord of Groby, to hunt at their pleasure by these words, *usque ad saltum*; and that they had free fishing in Blackbrooke from Charley to Shepeshed mylne, by a grant made by a deed, which several deeds this deponent kept and perused." To the eighth he saith, "that he left all the deeds and grants belonging to the said Priory in several boxes and coffers at his departing out of the said Priory, at the surrender thereof, to the Commissioners for the King, Doctor London, Master George Gifford, and Master Robert Burgoine; and that about a year after the dissolution, the said boxes, &c., were found broken open, and most of the evidences spoiled or destroyed."

William Bampkyn, of Belton, aged 57, who had been servant at the Priory for forty-nine years, with the exception of one year that he had served the Lord Leonard Grey, saith, among other things, "that upon a time, about forty years past, Lord Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, was offended with Prior Whalley for his said hunting; which the said Prior understanding, went to Bradgate to the said lord Marquis, and, amongst others, took the said deponent to attend him, and delivered him a box to carry, wherein was a grant from one of the ancestors of the said Lord, of the liberty of hunting, &c., to the Priors of Ulvescroft. Upon which being produced, this deponent heard the Marquis say thus:—" *Well, Prior, I have put my red deer forth lately; spare them, I pray thee, and spare not the fallow deer.*" He likewise saith, "that Prior Dalby and Sir^e William Eland, and all the Canons except Sir Thomas Massey, Sir Thomas Mason, and Sir Richard Eglatt, were *common hunters.*"

Robert Conyngham, of Horsepool Grange, co. Leicester, Gent., sworn and examined, deposeth, among other things, "that he hath known the Priory of Ulvescroft and capital messuage of Charley by the space of twenty-six years, and was servant there to Prior Dalbye at the surrender, &c., and that he dwelt at Charley one year after the said surrender, with the said Master Dalbye, and so removed again with him to Ulvescroft (the said Master Dalbye

* Clerks were usually honoured with the prefix of Knighthood in those times. The custom was long retained in some forms in the Universities.

then being farmer there! first to Sir Richard Cromwell then to Sir Andrew Judde); and after the death of the said Master Dalbye, this deponent was farmer of Ulvescroft by the space of eight years or more. that he doth right well know the said hills, wastes, and outwoods, within the Forest of Charnwood, mentioned in the third interrogatory; that is, Bishop's Hill, Stanywel Hill, Moseley Plain, Hamercliff and New Close, and the Redesyke nigh an old mere of stones there, and the hill now called Little Bawdon Castle, otherwise called the Mount of Alderman Haw, Blackcliff Hill, Green Hill, and every of them. And he knoweth the bounds of the said hills and outwoods; and that the said hills, &c., ever to his remembrance, &c., were the proper grounds of the said late Priory, and so have always been reputed, &c. But he knoweth of no wood being sold by the said Prior, forasmuch as the whole topwood and underwood growing upon the said wastes, &c., were scarce sufficient to suffice the kitchen, brewhouse, &c., and for hedging the said closes; and as for felling any trees by the root, not any other owners of outwood in the said Forest or waste used commonly so to do, because then the spring wood would have been utterly lost, which the Prior ever desired to maintain, and would ever command his servants to fell none but as high as a man, lest the goats and other cattle should hurt them. And that never since his memory and knowledge of the said ground, any man that ever he knew did, without the consent of the said Prior, fell, &c., or carry away any of the said wood, gorse, &c.; whereas in all other places of the Forest of Charnwood, as well in the late Duke of Suffolk's outwood as in all other men's, the commoners of the Forest do and may, by their custom, fell gorse at their pleasure, &c., but only in the said outwoods belonging to the said Priory: which privilege the late Duke, after he had bought Ulvescroft, observed and kept, because it belonged to Ulvescroft." He further mentions "a cross called Sir Robert's Cross, at that time defaced, as being in a plain on the Forest, near Little Bawdon Castle." He further confirms the evidence of William Bampkyn with respect to the breaking open, scattering, &c., of the deeds belonging to the Priory; and states that he "gathered up many of the said writings, which Sir Andrew Judde caused to be copied into English."

Hugh Poole, of Markfield, yeoman, cellerer and servant to the said Priory till its dissolution, aged 68 years, saith, "that he knew the mylne now called Sharpcliff, and the dam now re-edified, and that there was a building in Barn Leys, which he knew to have been burnt when King Henry VIII. went to Turwin and Turney (Prior Whalley's mother then, for fear of the plague at Markfelde, dwelling there), and that he hath seen the walls of an old house and a well which remains on Packmanheys. That the Priory every year had a pen on Green Hill in the lambing time, and that the Prior had goats going at Brown's Goat-house; that in Prior Whalley's days there were few red deer on the Forest, and that the Prior would ever will his servants to spare them but not the other; he hath brought many fallow deer home to the house at Ulvescroft which they had taken; and at divers times, with his leunards that he kept, hawked at the heathcock, pheasants, &c., &c."

William Worrell, of Syston, saith, "that he lived with the Parson of Markfelde, who was brother to Prior Whalley, and after dwelt and was servant to the Prior of Ulvescroft, and at his Parsonage of Syson."

William Syson, of the old Bede House of Leicester, aged 72, who was first carter, and

afterwards baker and brewer at the Priory, saith, "that when he dwelt there, and master Belton was celler, master Belton besought the Lord Thomas Marquis Dorset, about forty years now past, that because their outwoods, by means of baking and brewing for the said Lord Marquis (*brewing divers times ten quarters a week*), and by means of great expense of wood which they had in their chambers, kitchen, and other houses of office, whilst the Lady Elinor, wife to the said Lord Marquis lay there, by means whereof their outwoods were sore spoiled, that it might please his Lordship to grant unto them some of his woods to fell; wherefore the said Lord Marquis gave land unto the said master Belton and house of Ulvescroft accordingly."

Thomas Taylor, ten years servant at Ulvescroft in Prior Whalley and Prior Dalbye's days, saith, "that all the said time of ten years that he was wainman there, he did no other work almost, but only with a wain and a cart carry home such wood, furze, and thorns, as were felled *by seven persons kept constantly at work* for that purpose, to the number of from four to eight loads a day, and so for the most part of the year; and that all the woods the Priory had *without* would scarce serve, and *within* the Priory saved his wood."

Long (and perhaps to some readers tedious) as the foregoing extracts may be, I am not aware of the existence of any records of the Forest, or any description of monastic life about the period of the Dissolution, that can be of greater value or of higher interest. The injustice and bad faith of the reigning Sovereign—the vicissitudes of the Prior, from a state something like baronial luxury, to that of a common farmer—and above all, the sudden withdrawal of extensive charities, present a painful picture of the means had recourse to in bringing about the Reformation—means which even those who rejoice at the change effected can scarcely fail to deplore.

Mrs. Strelley having no issue, entailed the estate, in 1565, upon her nephews John, Bennett, William, and Francis Wilson, and their heirs respectively. In 1609 Bennett Wilson, Esq., and his nephew Ambrose Wilson, sold Ulvescroft,* then containing 1358 acres, and of the clear annual rent of £260. 14s. 4d., to Robert Peshall, Esq., Barrister at Law (brother to Sir John Peshall, Bart., of Gorzely, Staffordshire), whose only daughter Elizabeth carried it by marriage to Sir Robert Bosvile, Knt., of Byana. William Parkin Bosvile, Esq., of Ravenfield Park, co. York, was owner of Ulvescroft at the time of the inclosure, and after the death of Mrs. Bosvile, in 1809, it came to the Rev. A. Lyon Emerson, its present possessor. The lordships of Ulvescroft and Charley are the only entireties of parishes *within* the Forest.

"The remains of the Priory," says the Rev. Andrew Bloxam, "are the finest of the kind in Leicestershire; and the lofty tower, with the combination of ruins, when viewed from the surrounding hills, presents a scene of highly picturesque beauty."† But little of the original building, erected in the time of Henry II., now remains; nearly the whole of the present edifice being of the decorated style which prevailed in the fourteenth century. Three stone *sedilia*, in what was the chancel, and a stone pulpit‡ in a thick buttress of the Refectory,

* Charley, as shown in the proper place, had been previously sold by Mr. Bennett Wilson.

† "Guide to Bradgate"—which gives a very accurate and highly interesting description of the architectural beauties and peculiarities of this Priory.

‡ From this a portion of Scripture, or legend of a Saint, used to be read aloud by one of the Monks, during meals.

the Prior's Hall—and traces of cloisters, and of the Chapter-house, will afford a great treat to the lovers of the past, or to the admirers of ancient ecclesiastical architecture. The mind, indeed, that does not derive extreme gratification from this most romantic valley and most picturesque ruin, must belong to one of those unenviable persons who “look without seeing.” It is to be regretted, however, that flaming red pantiles, roofing some of the ancient buildings, should be allowed to detract much from the general effect of the whole!

The environs of Ulvescroft are rich in sylvan scenery and in objects worthy the attention of the topographer. COPT OAK, a trysting tree of the olden time, stands on the high grounds on the west. On this spot (it may have been under this tree) Erick the Forester is said to have harangued his forces against the Norman invaders. It was long a place of assembly on matters connected with the Forest, or perhaps a Swanimote Court; and here, too, in the Parliamentary troubles of 1642, the Earl of Stamford assembled the trained bands of the district. This oak was once surrounded with a *coped* wall—hence its name. Another, in the neighbouring wood of Stony Wells, was similarly guarded.—ULVESCROFT COTTAGE, on the Forest border, is the elegant but unostentatious residence of Thomas Pares, Esq., a large Forest proprietor, owning the well-cultivated farms of Baldwin Castle and Charley Knoll.—Thomas Denning, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Loughborough, had long an occasional residence in “the Prior's house,” and is also a Forest proprietor.—The Pilgrims (a most appropriate name in connexion with a Monastic house) have long been highly respected freeholders and occupiers on the domain.

I add, in the conclusion of this notice of Ulvescroft, what ought, perhaps, to have been inserted in its commencement—some speculations on the origin of the name. Some writers have entertained the idea that it was so called “because there stood a cross before its entrance”—but this would only account for the termination. Others have supposed it to have originated in the circumstance of the district having, in early times, been infested with *wolves*. But neither of these reasons can be considered satisfactory. I entertain little doubt that Ulvescroft was part of the possession of *Ulf*, who, it will be recollected, is mentioned in Domesday book as having lands in Groby (of which this valley was a part); and I am confirmed in this opinion by a deed of William, the first Lord Ferrars (given in page 144), where an inclosure between Leyfield and Newtown is called *Ulf-pychala*, and in other deeds *Ulf-pychal*. Ulvescroft therefore seems the more correct, as it certainly is the more euphonic name. I need make no apology for introducing here a beautiful poetical allusion to this *name* and place, from the pen, I believe, of a venerable and eminent living divine, whose writings have had a most extensive and beneficial influence on the spirit of the age, and whose benevolence has long become proverbial:—

“Through CHARNWOOD'S breadth their passage lay,
But fearful was the snowy way,
For oft in cavities profound
Down sunk abrupt a rocky mound:
And loud through ice the torrent roar'd:
And hard to find the treacherous ford:
And bogs no stag in June may pass,
In white were veil'd—a fluid mass:
And safe on BARDON'S craggy side
The trooping wolves might yet abide,

And still with midnight yellings howl
To comrades that on BEACON prowled.
Or follow on the scent of blood
From BIRCHWOOD HILL to TIMBERWOOD:
While IVESHEAD, starting from repose,
Mourns to LUBCLOU his purple snows.
Such yells on BALDWIN'S rock aloft,
O'er meads and folds of ULVESCROFT,
Still would the wakeful Friars hear,
And tremble for their wonted cheer.”

From “Rothley Temple, a Poem in three Cantos,” published anonymously in 1815, but generally ascribed to the Rev. Thomas Gisborne.

WHITWICK.

(*Witewic, Witwicke, Whytewyke, Whitwike, Whytwyck.*)

Hugo tenet de H[ugone de Grentemaisnell] dimidiam carucatam terre in Witewic. Terra est dimidia caruce. Ibi est 1 bordarius. Silva 1 quarentene longitudinis et dimidia latitudinis. Valet 2. Solidos.
—*Domesday, fol. 233, a. 1.*

WHITWICK, the head of the third division of Charnwood, is situated in a valley abutting on its western boundary, and is overhung on one side by the wildest and boldest features of the Forest. "This Mannor," says Burton, "is very large and great, having many villages members of the same.* It was belonging to the ancient Earles of Leicester, who had heere a Castle and a Parke. It came after (by enter-marriage of one of the heyres generally) to Quincy, Earl of Winchester. And by Elizabeth, youngest daughter and co-hcyre of Roger, Earle of Winchester, it came to Alexander Comyn, Earl of Boughan or Bucquan in Scotland, her husband, to whom King Edward I. (21 Edw. I.) granted liberty of a market and a faire to be kept here."†

It appears from ancient records that Whitwick was, occasionally at least, the residence of that noble and potent baron Hugh de Grentesmaisnell, who had here a Castle and a Park.‡ This ancient Castle seems first to require notice, and it is to be regretted that, as in the case of the neighbouring and probably nearly coeval fortresses of Groby and Mount-sorrel, few vestiges and few records of it remain. The Castle was situated on a small mount—the whole summit of which it evidently must have occupied—nearly in the centre of the town—of which it doubtless was the origin.

The site is so similar in extent and form to those of the Castles just referred to, as to give ground for the conjecture that it was erected at nearly the same epoch, and probably for the same purpose. Traces of what appears to have been the Keep are the only remains at present existing, but more extensive ruins were standing in the recollection of aged persons of the neighbourhood. With the brook at its base—with the ancient Church, originally, in all likelihood, an adjunct to it—and with the bold and abrupt front of the Forest rocks on the north and east—the Castle must have been an object of solitary grandeur. In 1205, William de Senevill was appointed Keeper of Whitwick Castle (in right of Petronella, Countess of Leicester), and to give to the King John his son and heir as a pledge (obsidem) for the safe keeping thereof: as also Richard, another son of his, but this he would not.§ The Castle and Lordship, by a marriage with Elizabeth Quincy, already described, came in 1278 to Alexander Comyn, and it may be concluded from the circumstances of their son having afterwards removed to Charley, and from Henry Lord Beaumont, the next possessor, having erected Beaumanor, that Whitwick Castle about this time was either demolished, or

* Whittington, Hugglescote, Donington, Swanington, Ravenstone, Stanton-under-Bardon and the Park, Markfield, Bocheston, and Newtowne Unthanke.

† Burton, page 304.—But Nichols properly states this grant to have been made to John Comyn, son of Alexander.

‡ Nichols' West Goscote, p. 1112.

§ Fines, 6 John.

had become too ruinous for a residence. An Inquisition taken at Lutterworth in 1427, on the death of Elizabeth, wife of Henry de Beaumont, plainly shows that the Castle was then in ruins; that there were no buildings on the site, and that its worth by the year was—“*nihil.*”*

The same Inquisition affords further confirmation of the Castle having for some time ceased to be a residence, by naming a great number of houses, ruined or vacant for want of tenants (*defectu tenentium*), which may fairly be supposed to have arisen from the removal of a great baronial establishment.†

The Castle Hill was purchased in 1707 by William Holliday, of Thringstone, from the widow and daughters of William Osborne, of Shenton, in this county; and continued to belong to the family of Holliday till 1802, when it was sold to Henry Cropper, Esq., of Bunny, Nottinghamshire, and of Loughborough: father of Joseph Almond Cropper, Esq., Barrister at Law, of Pennis, in the parish of Fawkham, Kent, and of Pope's Villa, Twickenham, in whose possession it still remains.

The manner in which the Comyns became located on Charnwood, and possessed of extensive estates in its precincts, has been explained at such length under Charley, that I need here only remind the reader that the issue of the marriage of Alexander, Earl of Buchan, with Elizabeth de Quincy, youngest daughter and co-heir of Roger, Earl of Winchester, were three sons—John, Alexander, and William. In 1290 it was found that Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, held not any lands of the King *in capite*, because he had enfeoffed John, his son and heir, seven years before, in the manor of Whitwick, with the appurtenances, and in all other lands and tenements which he had in the counties of Leicester and Warwick, to hold of him by the service of half a Knight's fee; and that John Comyn was then aged thirty.‡

An extract from the Register of Garendon Abbey, with reference to this John Comyn, is of too great importance, from its connexion with Forest rights, to be omitted here. The original, in Latin, will be found in Nichols, under Whitwick.

“*Plea between us and John Comyn, respecting the killing of our hogs, in the time of pannage, in the year 1291.*”

“And the aforesaid John Comyn, for himself and the others [his servants, Richard and others, hereafter mentioned], saith that they have done no injury; because he saith that he himself hath a certain privilege (*libertatem*) in the Forest of Charnewode of driving, once every year in the time of pannage, all the hogs then being in that Forest to his Park in his manor

* “*Item quod est in situ manerii de Whytwick quoddam castrum vetus et ruinosum in quo nulla sunt edificia, quod nihil valet per annum.*”

† This Inquisition also makes mention of a singular kind of service, called *Berrys*—“*viginti novem opera hominum vocata Berrys pro bladis,*” value 1*d.* each. The same custom prevailed at Belton a century after, and was there called “*Bewypps.*” The value of labour had then doubled—that of thirty-seven men being valued at 7*s.* 2*d.* At Gracedieu, also, the same custom seems to have been in use. It is there called “*Benereps.*”—See *Bailiffs' Accounts Augmentation Office.*

‡ Esch. 18 Edward I., No. 12, Leic.

P E L D E R T O R N E A R W H I T W I C K .





WHITWICK CHURCH.

of Wytewyk or Schepshed,* in order to see who has more hogs in the Forest than he ought to have: and if they find more there than any one ought to have, whosoever they might be, he ought to have pannage for them by reason of the same privilege. The aforesaid Richard and others, as the bailiffs of their lord, took, as was their right, the hogs of the aforesaid Abbot, and all other hogs found, to his own manor, namely Schepshed. And one of them saith, that if the aforesaid hogs or any part of them have been killed, this was the Abbot's own fault: because he, the Abbot, refused to ask to have his own hogs quietly delivered to him, according to the custom (legen) hitherto used in the said Forest. And as to this he throws himself upon his country.

And the aforesaid Abbot says that the aforesaid John ought not to take his hogs when found on the Forest, nor drive them to his aforesaid Park; but he truly saith, that the aforesaid John and others did take his said hogs, and with malice slay them, as above alleged: and he requests that it may be inquired into by his country how this is. And John and the others likewise. Therefore, let the jury attend before the King within fifteen days from St. Hilary's day, wherever" &c. It appears from the *Abbreviatio Placitorum* that the number of hogs killed was one hundred, and that the jury decided that *John Comyn had done right*.

"In 1312 Master William Comyn, of Buchan, having obtained of his brother John Comyn, deceased, some time Earl of Buchan, a grant of two parts of the manor of Sheepshed, the towns of Markinfield, Whinton, Bochardeston and Newton, as also a moiety of Ratbye and the town of Whitwyke, with the Park of Bardon, all in the county of Leicester, in fee, without the King's license, had the King's pardon for the same."† This William, having no issue, rendered them to the King in behalf of his two nieces, Margaret and Johanna,‡ daughters and co-heiresses of his brother Alexander.

A few years after this, viz., May 12, 1330 (but whether by virtue of this surrender or not does not seem clear), Edward III. conferred the manor of Whitwick upon Bartholomew de Burghersh, one of his retainers;§ "in order," says the grant, "that the said Bartholomew may be able more decently to support himself in our service." The grant, however, contained a reservation of the King's right to resume the manor at pleasure on paying a full equivalent, and we find Henry de Beaumont, Earl of Buchan, seised of it at the time of his

* This word, in the original, appears to be "de Wytewyk ut *ſæ'thæp*," which Mr. Nichols confessed his inability to decipher. I could cite many ancient deeds in which Sheepshed is so abbreviated, and it will be shown hereafter that Sheepshed was a member of the manor of Whitwick. Under Garendon (p. 797), Mr. Nichols properly concludes that what appears in the Charters to be *Meuton*, must mean *Sutton*—a case perfectly parallel. The *M* is a flourished *S*.

† Pat. 6 Edward II., pars 2, m. 5; as quoted by Nichols.

‡ So states the Inquisition, which Nichols gives at length; though in the paragraph immediately following it he calls them *Alice* and *Margaret*—and in the Quincy pedigree he gives *three* daughters to Alexander Comyn, viz.:—*Alice*, married to Henry Lord Beaumont, Katherine to the Earl of Athol, and Margaret to the Earl of Ross. He also omits their mother and their uncle William Comyn. *Alice* is by several writers called the *only* daughter of the Earl of Buchan.

§ Who married Elizabeth de Verdon, granddaughter of Roesia, foundress of Gracedieu Abbey. See *Dug. Baron*. Vol. I., p. 474. In Mr. Nichols's pedigree of Verdon (III., 640) this name is omitted; as also in the Verdon pedigree (IV., 279), which professes to be drawn from Dugdale's Warwickshire, page 29. The latter dates Roesia's foundation of Gracedieu 1229.

death, in 1340. From this period the manor, with its members, continued to be the possession of the Beaumonts till 1461-2, when on the attainder of William Lord Viscount Beaumont, King Edward IV. granted the manors and lordships of Whitwyke, Bocheston, Newton, Hoclescote, Donynton, North Markefield and Ernesby (which Katherine, Duchess of Norfolk [see under Beaumanor] held for the term of her life, with remainder to William Lord Viscount Beaumont), to William Hastings, Esq., and his heirs.* It was then held by homage only. After the death of Lord Hastings, Richard III. granted it to Francis Lord Lovell and Joan his wife, sole sister and heir to John Viscount Beaumont, but Lord Lovell being attainted in 1485 it again fell to the Crown.

The manor "of Whytewyk, with its members and appurtenances in the county of Leicester, together with all the lands which the King possessed in Whytewyk, Swanynghon, Donynton, Hokelscote, Newton Unthanke, Bocherdeston, Roteby and Markfield, and the advowson of Markfield," next became the property of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, by exchange with King Henry VIII., to whom the Marquis conveyed, in lieu of it, the manors of Lee Bankers and Shroffold, with the advowson of Lee Church, in the county of Kent. The indenture of this exchange is dated May 12, 1512, and the King reserved to himself and his heirs the Park of Bardon.†

From the Marquis of Dorset the lordship descended to Henry Duke of Suffolk, his son, on whose attainder, in 1554, it again reverted to the Crown.

In 1612 King James I. granted the manor, with Bardon Park, in Charnwood Forest ("tam infra quam extra forestam de Charnwood"), to Sir Henry Hastings, Knt., and Henry Cutler, Gent., in consideration of the sum of £4000.‡ The manor has ever since continued in the Hastings family.§

THE CHURCH

From the view of Whitwick Church, given in these pages, the reader will at once conclude that it is a very ancient edifice. Its fine sombre-looking tower, without the usual embattled parapet, and relieved by windows of a quaint and singular character, produces a striking effect; it more resembles the larger Churches of Normandy than the ordinary village Churches of this country. Tradition reports it to be eight hundred years old—nor is the eleventh century an unlikely era for such an erection. The body of the Church is in strict keeping with the tower, and the interior has few proofs of the mischief too frequently per-

* Pat. 1 Edward IV., pars 1, m. 25.

† Nichols gives this Indenture at length, from "*Originalia* in the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer's Office:" though, by a singular oversight, he states in the paragraph preceding it, that Whitwick "was given by Henry VIII., 1530, to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, in exchange for the lordships of *Grafton and Hartwell*, co. Northampton, to be held by him and his heirs in socage by the rent of £5. 5s. 4d. per annum." Whereas, both under Beaumanor and Sheepshed, he had correctly stated that Grafton and Hartwell were exchanged with Henry VIII. for *Loughborough and Sheepshed!*

‡ Harl. MSS. 3881, f. 696.

§ On the petition of the Rev. John Piddocke, Leonard Piddocke, Ellis Shipley Pestell, Henry Cropper, Thomas Fenton, and John Roper, Esqrs., the principal proprietors, an Act for the inclosure of certain waste lands called Whitwick Moor, was obtained in 1803.

petrated by injudicious Churchwardens.—A tomb without an inscription bears the mailed and much mutilated effigies of a man of gigantic stature. The figure is seven feet in length, which is much too short for the current traditions respecting the size and strength of the redoubtable Knight, Sir John Talbot* of Swannington, to whose memory it is believed to have been erected. Sir John died in 1365, in his fortieth year. The *Matriculus* of 1220 describes Robert Talbois as Parson and William Shawell Vicar, and the latter as paying to the former one pound of aromatic incense.

It is stated in the *Magna Britannia*, page 1376, that this was one of the places in which Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln in 1235, showed his dislike of inappropriations by restoring to the Vicar the great tithes which had been appropriated to his see, and consolidating them to the living for ever.† Nichols mentions this fact, but thinks it applies to the mother Church of Whitwick; whereas Osgathorpe (mentioned in the *Matriculus* of 1220,‡ under the name of Angodeston, elsewhere written Angodesthorp, as a Chapelry of Whitwick) is the place intended. It is noticed in 1344,§ “Osgathorpe solebat esse capella nunc verò Ecclesia parochialis,” though it is remarkable that the name of Osgathorpe does not appear among the list of the livings whose institution or ordination is extant among the records at Lincoln.||—The living of Whitwick, as parcel of the Honour of Lancaster,¶ belongs to the Crown. The present Incumbent is the Rev. Francis Merewether, M.A.

The village, from its great extent and the variety of trades carried on in it, has lost all the characteristics of a rural population, yet the situation is one of great natural beauty. The Castle Hill—the venerable Church—the Roman Catholic Chapel—some very antique houses, and the bold range of rocks overhanging it on the north and east, are objects of just admiration to every stranger. The environs, as will shortly be seen, are highly interesting—the Geologist finds a fine field for study in the collieries and the porphyry rocks—the

* A lanc and wood near Whitwick are still called by this name; and the following couplet is a common proverb there:—

“Nought remains of Talbot’s name
But Talbot Wood and Talbot Lane.”

† The good Bishop regarded appropriations “as robbing God of his honour, the Priest of his maintenance, and the people of their souls.” The evil had indeed become very great: for, “from making appropriations to Monasteries, Deans, Prebendaries, &c., the example went on to parish Priests, who in populous and rich places obtained a Vicarage to be endowed—and casting upon them the care of souls, they had the Rectory appropriated to themselves and their successors as a sinecure for ever.”—*Magna Britannia*, page 1376.

‡ Nichols, Vol. I., page lviii.

§ Nichols, Vol. I., page lxiii.

|| Nichols, Vol. I., page xcix.

¶ It may not be amiss to add here a brief description of this Honour. “Landed Honours,” says Lauder, “originally belonged exclusively to the Crown, but were afterwards granted in fee to noblemen. That the Honour of Lancaster existed before the Conquest, is demonstrated by an agreement (still preserved) made between King Stephen and Henry Duke of Normandy. Soon after the Conquest three noblemen held the Honour of Lancaster, as it was then termed: but Roger of Poitou—the first person whose name is recorded as its possessor—forfeited it for high treason. Stephen then gave it to his son William. After this it was held by several great personages, till Henry III. conferred it on his second son Edmund Plantagenet (Crouchback), when it became an Earldom, in consequence of the possessor being an Earl by birthright.—The title of Duke of Lancaster was created in favour of Henry Plantagenet, whose daughter and heiress Blanche married John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III., from whom it descended to his son Henry IV., who decreed that the title and revenues should remain to him and his heirs for ever, as a distinct and separate inheritance from the Crown.”—(See Sir T. Dick Lauder’s edition of Gilpin, Vol. II., p. 25.)—Henry Plantagenet married Isabel, sister of John Lord Beaumont.

Antiquarian revels on the site of the Castle and amid the architectural singularities of the Church—and the lover of unmolested nature finds, from Pelder Tor to “forlorn Gracedieu,” scenes which, when viewed for the first time, he can scarcely believe to belong to Leicester-shire.—In this parish, and about two miles north-east of the village, is the SWANMOTE ROCK, on which, in early times, the Courts of the Forest were held. The reader or spectator must draw largely on his imagination to bring before his mind’s eye a picture of one of these assemblages in such a wild and desolate a scene! Below it is a spot bearing a name the origin of which cannot, perhaps, be more satisfactorily explained than by the following

LEGEND OF LADY ASLIN’S POOL:—

Below the SHARPLEY Rocks, in a low vale,
A mirror to the mountain, lies a lake
Called by the rustics “LADY ASLIN’S POOL.”
The milkmaid, when within that spacious field
She herds the kine, to drain their swelling teats,
Ever avoids that spot—and drives her charge
To the remotest corner. There she kneels,
And oft, extracting still the foaming flood,
Turns stealthy looks to where the waters sleep.
Often, perchance, if thro’ the bushes flit
White calf, grey colt, or e’en the twinkling rabbit,
She starts—o’erturns her pail, and awe-struck flies
For safety to yon cottage. There she tells
How Lady Aslin’s ghost has glided thro’
The bushes of the lakelet! Shepherd boy
Counts his still flock, when pastur’d in that field,
An hour before the time: lest, in the gloom,
The Lady Aslin walk and glide before him.

Of many a grey-haired sire and aged dame,
But last of one who, in a sheltered cot
By CHARLEY’S ancient Priory, has endured
The storms of eighty winters, I inquired
“Who *was* the Lady Aslin? Why the pool
From her had borrowed its age-lasting name?”

None knew—none cared to know, save the old sire
I spoke of. He, inclined upon his spade,
His bald head all uncovered—the few white locks
That lingered yet below the *capit*
Of the still fine, but time-worn human column,
Waving like streamers in the mountain gale—
Narrated this, in answer to my quest:—
“Aye, Sir, these hills are rugged—and men’s minds,
In these poor school-less spots, are rugged too—
A stranger asked me, not an hour ago,
When, why, or how these craggy steps were formed
On which we toil to gain our daily bread—
I’ve had my thoughts, but scholarship and I
Were never *close acquaintance*. My lost mother—

’Tis sixty years this April since she changed
That house for one on everlasting hills,
Where rain, and storms, and tears ne’er fall”—(and then
He wiped his furrowed cheek.)—“That mother knew
A *mort* of book-learnt wisdom—would have taught
Me, her sole son, but that I better loved
To spend the livelong day upon these hills—
That ever were a wonder and a joy—
And when came night, or storms, or frost-bound winter,
I loved old stories from her fluent lips,
But sought not lore from books—mens’ books to me
Seem’d like the mines I’ve delved in—
Monstrous masses of earthy rubbish for a little coal.
My mother’s tales were music; oft she told
The one you ask—‘The hapless Lady’s Pool.’
I’m eighty—but remember her sweet tales
Far better than our gifted Pastor’s truths
Delivered yesterday.” And then he told
The story, which, divested of its length
And somewhat altered from its homely phrase
And age’s expletives, I tell to you:—

“There was a Castle in old Whitwick Park,
And Goisfrid Aslin held it of the King;
He was the Bluebeard of those ancient times:
A tyrant, who could steep his hands in blood
And eat, and sleep, and pray without ablution.
He married Gertrude Lyne—if that be marriage
Where a stern father, fearful of the power
His neighbour lord has o’er him, says ‘*Obey*’—
And buys his safety by his daughter’s tears.
Goisfrid had paramours—the Castle Court
Abounded with his jillflirts. His poor lady
Was scorned and outraged ere the second moon
Had beamed upon their bridal. Goisfrid toyed
Beneath her window with some flaunting quean,
And gloried in his shame. That night his couch
Was lone! As lone, but colder far the Lady Aslin’s—
’Twas in that dark, deep Pool.”

A large tract of Forest between this spot and the Oaks Chapel is chiefly the property of Kirkby Fenton, Esq., of Thorpe Hall, Yorkshire, who has erected upon it a very tasteful hunting-box, called Onebarrow Lodge. This gentleman may with justice be termed one of the greatest improvers of the Forest. When he came into possession of the estate, it was, with a trifling exception, rugged rock or moorland; in a very few years he has brought several hundred acres into a state of high cultivation—is rapidly inclosing more—and has planted nearly 100,000 Forest trees on tracts where heath and fern lately formed the only foliage.*—One of the finest Forest scenes is the gorge formed by Onebarrow Hill.

Contiguous to this estate is Charnwood Heath, the property of Thomas Gisborne, Esq. Mr. Gisborne, too, is a Forest improver; indeed, he took the lead soon after the inclosure, at an enormous outlay of capital, in the most modern system of agriculture. The Hanging Stone—already described under Antiquities—and the rocks called the High Towers or Tors, are remarkable features in this locality. Bordering on Mr. Gisborne's estate, and till recently a part of it, is the tract long called the Tynte or Tin Meadows; now known under the more lofty name of Mount St. Bernard.

THE MONASTERY OF MOUNT ST. BERNARD.

Now the midnight chant is stealing,
 Mass and requiem breathing near;
 Hushed the blast, as if revealing
 Sounds to earth that Heaven might hear.—*Roby.*

Whatever may be the prevailing differences of opinion on “modes of faith,” the topographer or historian is bound to present, so far as he is able, a faithful picture of the locality which he professes to describe. To write the History of Charnwood Forest without some mention of what has now become one of the most remarkable features in it, would be an omission justly affixing on any writer a charge of bigotry and unfairness. I rejoice that I am enabled, by the kindness of a talented Roman Catholic gentleman, to present an original and faithful notice of the Monastery and brotherhood of Mount St. Bernard, which will be far more interesting and valuable than any description that could have proceeded from my own pen.

“The Abbey of St. Bernard, in Charnwood Forest, was founded in the year of our Lord 1835; exactly three hundred years having elapsed from the suppression of the larger Monasteries by King Henry the Eighth, in the year of our Lord 1535. This Abbey belongs to the Cistercian Order, which is one of the most celebrated Orders of the Western Church.

“It may not be amiss here to give a brief sketch of the origin of this famous Order; it was founded in the year of our Lord 1098, by an English gentleman of the name of Stephen Harding, a man of eminent sanctity and great learning. He is known in Church History

* Mr. Fenton has, with great taste, preserved, wherever practicable, all the striking rocky prominences on his estate—a forbearance which I feel the more bound to record, because in too many instances proprietors of the Forest have shown, in this respect, a much-to-be-regretted preference of the *utile* to the *dulci*.—The rick-yards at Onebarrow Lodge, and at Mr. Green's adjoining Hermitage Farm, show a remarkable produce for the number of acres cropped. The stacks in the former are thatched in the cupola form, a mode not elsewhere in use in this county.

by the title of *St. Stephen, Abbot of Cîteaux*. He was born in the county of Dorset, and received his education in the Monastery of Sherbourne, in the same county. The learned Alban Butler tells us, in the fourth volume of his *Lives of the Saints* (p. 166), that Stephen Harding, having left England, travelled to Paris and Rome in order that he might learn more perfectly the means of Christian perfection, by visiting the most famous Monasteries of France and Italy. On his return from the latter country he visited the Abbey of Molesme, in the diocese of Langres, in France, not very far from Lyons: he was so edified with the great piety and fervour of the Monks of that house, that he determined to remain there. But afterwards, a relaxation of discipline by degrees creeping into the community, he, together with St. Robert the Abbot, and the blessed Alberic, and other devout Monks, left this Monastery, and retired into the desert of Cîteaux, five leagues from Dijon, where they built themselves a poor Monastery of wood, upon some land given them for the purpose by the Viscount of Beaune. In this Monastery the celebrated Cistercian Order, so called from the name of the desert *Cîteaux*, or *Cistercia* in Latin, commenced in the year of our Lord 1098; an Order which has been famous in the Church of God ever since. Nothing can surpass the accounts which the Ecclesiastical writers of the day give us of the piety and fervour of these Holy Monks; they restored, in a degenerate age, all the most perfect usages of the Primitive Church, reviving those wonders of God which the great St. Athanasius has related to us concerning St. Anthony, St. Pacomius, and the other famous solitarys of Egypt and Syria in those early times of Primitive Christianity. The fame of their virtue soon spread through Christendom, and in the course of a very few years there were numerous Monasteries of the Order established all over the Western Church, some of the most remarkable of which existed in this kingdom. Who is there who has not heard of Fountains Abbey, in Yorkshire? of Riveaux—of Kirkstall—of Bolton, in the same county?—of the beautiful ruins of Tintern, in Monmouthshire, and of many other glorious Abbeys, which here in England belonged to the Cistercian Order, the venerable and picturesque remains of which still refresh the devotion or gratify the curiosity of Christian travellers and antiquarians?

“The Cistercian Order is a branch of the Benedictine, and it professes to observe the rule of St. Benedict without mitigation. The Monks of this Order never eat flesh meat, fish, or eggs, and the only animal food of which they partake is milk and cheese. Their Lent is much longer than that observed by the rest of the Church; it commences on the 14th of September, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, and terminates at the Festival of our Lord’s Resurrection. They observe manual labour, tilling the ground with their own hands; they keep almost a perpetual silence, never speaking except to the Superior or by his permission. They sing the whole Divine Office, or the Canonical Hours, rising all the year round at two in the morning, and on the great Festivals at midnight, for the celebration of Matins; they celebrate the Holy Eucharist every day with great solemnity; they spend much time in mental prayer and meditation; and above all, they are exhorted by their holy rule to aim at the highest practice of Christian virtue, at the closest imitation of the divine example of our Lord Jesus Christ, such as we find it in the Holy Gospel. They are commanded to be most assiduous in studying the Sacred Scriptures and the writings of the Holy Fathers of God’s Church. They are taught that they should ever keep themselves in

the presence of God, and that to His divine honour and glory they must dedicate every action, thought, and word, and every moment of their lives; that without this interior consecration of themselves, all their outward actions, however holy and praiseworthy, will avail them nothing.

“As has been already said, the Cistercian Abbey of St. Bernard, in Charnwood Forest, was founded in the year 1835—a tract of wild desert land having been purchased for that purpose from Thomas Gisborne, Esq., M.P. for the county of Derby, of which not more than from thirty to forty acres were in a state of cultivation when the Monks entered upon it. This house is an affiliation from the Abbey of Melleraye in Brittany, in France, and is at present subject to the jurisdiction of the Very Rev. Vincent Ryan, Abbot of the Cistercian Abbey of Mount Melleraye, in Ireland, which is also an affiliation of that same house.

“The Monks who commenced this foundation were the Reverend Father Odilo Woolfrey, Presbyter; Father Bernard Palmer, Presbyter; Brother Luke, Brother Xavier, and Brother Augustine, Lay Brethren. They lived for more than a year in a miserable cottage, the roof of which was in a most ruinous condition, so that they were exposed to all the inclemency of the weather. But after this, by the charitable gifts of the Faithful, they built a humble Monastery and Chapel, together with some farm buildings; these buildings are intended to form the Abbey Grange.

“In the year 1839 the Earl of Shrewsbury made a most munificent gift to the Monks of St. Bernard’s, which enabled them to build a very beautiful Monastery at the foot of the large rock on their land, which is now termed the Calvary; this Monastery is built in the early Lancet Gothic style, under the directions of Augustus Welby Pugin, Esq., the most celebrated Gothic Architect since the middle ages. It is situated in a picturesque valley, surrounded on all sides by great rocks, and perfectly secluded from the world.

“The Monks are well skilled in agriculture, and they have succeeded in bringing a large tract of desert land into good cultivation. They are very charitable to the poor, many hundreds of whom, from the neighbouring villages, receive daily relief at the Convent gate. It is a part of the Cistercian rule to give hospitality to strangers, for whom comfortable apartments are provided in the Abbey.”

To add much to this “simple narrative” would be superfluous; but it is right to say that Mount St. Bernard, whether as offering a fair picture of Monastic life, or as embellishing scenery of singular wildness and beauty, or as presenting the somewhat unusual occurrence of a partial re-possession of a district in which, three centuries ago, there were four similar Institutions, has of late been an object of great and increasing curiosity—strangers from all parts of the kingdom have visited it during the last and present summer—it has this year been honoured with a Royal visit.* And, however differing in creed, it must be owned that few leave the spot without finding their prejudices somewhat softened by the bland and courteous welcome of the lowly Cistercians.

High Cademan, of which a view is given, the Sharpley rocks, and the whole of the range from that point to Timberwood, afford a picture of rugged wildness rarely to be met with in the neighbourhood of a highly cultivated district.

* So states “An Appeal to the Catholics of England.”—*Dolman*, 1842.

BARDON.

BARDON PARK, situated on the south-west side of Charnwood, is one of the fifteen ancient Parks which, as has before been stated, formerly encircled the whole Forest. In the Inclosure Survey the Forest boundary is made to exclude the whole of this Park, but it has already been shown, under Whitwick, that a considerable part of it was originally *within* the Forest—[“infra Forestam.”]

This domain contains 1225 acres, and was imparked previously to 1300, as is proved by an Inquisition on the death of John Comyn, Earl of Buchan (see page 144, under Whitwick), to whose mother, Elizabeth, daughter of Roger de Quincy, it appears to have come as part of her share in the partition of the inheritance. From this it may be concluded that it was a part of the possessions of Grentemaisnell. In 1312 Master William Comyn, the Earl's youngest brother, obtained *inter alia* a grant of Whytwyke, with the Park of Bardon *in fee*.* It then passed by marriage of William Comyn's niece to Henry Lord Beaumont, and probably continued in that family till the attainder of Viscount Beaumont, in 1461. In 1528 King Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset. It again reverted to the Crown in 1552, on the attainder of Henry Duke of Suffolk.

In 1569 Queen Elizabeth granted to Sir Henry Hastings, Knt., and Henry Cutler, Gent. (with the manor of Whitwick), “Bardon Park, *in* Charnwood Forest and *without*,” by whom it was alienated to the family of Hood, originally seated at Wilford, near Nottingham, but resident at Bardon in the time of Henry VIII., though not seised thereof till the reign of Elizabeth.

In the male line of this family Bardon Park remained till the death of the last possessor, William Hood, Esq., Barrister at Law, by whom it was bequeathed to his nephew Robert Jacomb, Esq., who has since assumed by Royal License the name and arms of Hood. This gentleman, the present justly-esteemed proprietor of the estate, has lately pulled down the ancient Hall, and erected (from the beautiful designs of Robert Lugar, Esq.) a new mansion, on a more elevated situation, about half a mile from the seat of his ancestors. The character and style of the new house may be considered Elizabethan, formed on a limited scale of accommodation, and of simple decoration, in accordance with the wishes of the owner. Backed by the far-famed hill, and looking over the gentle slopes of the Park-like grounds in front, Bardon Hall, when viewed from the Ashby road, has an imposing effect.

STANTON-UNDER-BARDON (called in a Grant of Ernald de Bois [*West Goscote*, p. 815] “Stantona de sub Monte Bardona”) is a small township belonging to Thornton, lying south of the hill from which it takes its name. The Queen is Lady of the Manor, and Charles March Phillipps, Esq., and the Earl of Stamford, are the principal proprietors. The whole of the lordship was conferred by William Harcourt, in 1148, on Garendon Abbey: and the large part of it, now in the possession of Mr. March Phillipps, passed to his ancestor, Sir Ambrose, from the Duke of Buckingham, with the other estates connected with Garendon, at the Dissolution.

BATTLE FLAT, a manor of 180 acres, of which the Marquis of Hastings is Lord, and Thomas Roby Burgin, Esq., chief proprietor, is in this township. It is said a battle took place here between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, in 1645.

* Pat 6 Edward II., pars 2, m. 5.





BARDON HILL.

——— “ We reserved
 The tribute of our homage till arrived ;
 Turning our eyes away from where we felt
 Sublimity was throned, to contemplate
 The Beautiful which we had left behind
 Reposing in the valleys.”

BARDON HILL, which has been styled the “Olympus of Leicestershire,” demands something more than a passing remark. Burton thus describes it:—“This hill is in the bottom of a large circumference, rising up (not very steeply) to a great height, being (as I take it) one of the highest of that ranke, very rough and full of wood, within which are quarries of hard stone, which some take to be a kind of lime stone. The top thereof yeeldeth a very pleasing and delicate prospect, especially to the west and south-west: this hill having bene scene not farre from Gloucester, above 40 miles’ distance.” To this tolerably accurate description, the old Historian adds his opinion of the “natural cause of hills,” which was, “*that a vegetative substance or matter being naturally united or drawne together, hath by the force of the sunne and other planets, growne to that proportion*”!!!*

The author of “The Agriculture of the Midland Counties,” Mr. Marshall, gives the following just description of Bardon and the Forest range:—“The Charnwood hills are too striking a feature to be passed over without especial notice. When seen obscurely they appear like an extensive range of mountains, much larger than they really are. When approached, the mountain style is still preserved, the prominences are sharp, distinct, and most of them pointed with rugged rocks. One of these prominences, Bardon Hill, rises above the rest: and though far from an elevated situation, it probably commands a greater extent of surface than any other point of view in the island. It is entirely insulated, standing, in every way, at a considerable distance from lands equally high. The horizon appears to rise almost equally on every side: it is *quite an ocean view, from a ship out of sight of land*. The midland district, almost every acre of it, is seen lying at its feet. The Sugar Loaf, in South Wales—the mountains of Shropshire and North Wales are distinctly in view—and the Derbyshire hills, to the highest Peak, appear at hand. An outline, described from the extremity of this view, would include *nearly one-fourth of England and Wales*. It may be deemed one of the most extraordinary points of view in Nature.”

No lover of what is wild and wonderful in nature can visit this commanding eminence without feelings of mingled awe and admiration. The recollection that it was one of the High Places where the Bards (hence its name) hymned the praises of their Sun-god and their heroes, and where Druidical superstition received its votaries and offered its victims, is one of the many associations connected with Bardon. The almost unbounded range of vision, extending (from an elevation of 852 feet above the sea level) over a panorama of five thousand square miles, strikes all that behold it for the first time with extreme astonishment. The studies in Botany, Geology, and Entomology, which the hill affords, are highly

* Burton, page 28.

interesting to the Naturalist. Science, too, has occasionally chosen Bardon for her seat. An eminent Astronomer of the last century* here fixed his instruments, in order to aid in some of the greatest astronomical discoveries of the time; and during the last summer, the Ordnance Office caused to be erected on the summit of this hill an immense conical pillar of stones, which now forms a station of great importance in the Trigonometrical Survey of England, still in progress; two Officers, with a few privates, being at the present moment encamped here, after a visit of several weeks. Another recent circumstance to which I am about to advert, has imparted fresh celebrity to Bardon.

ROYAL VISIT TO BARDON HILL.

On Tuesday, August 4th, 1840, Bardon Hill was honoured with the first Royal visit since the days of Edward III. Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, accompanied by her sister, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, and attended by Earl Howe, Lord Curzon, the Ladies Curzon, and by several of the ladies attached to her household, formed what is called a pic-nic party, to enjoy the romantic scenery and extraordinary views of this far-famed eminence. About eleven o'clock part of the establishment belonging to the Earl arrived in one of the Royal carriages, and began to make preparations for the reception of the distinguished party. A fire was soon made in the neighbourhood of the Summer House: on which, by the aid of a triangle of sticks, the necessary adjuncts to a cold collation were speedily prepared, and towards one o'clock the *cortège*, consisting of three carriages, was seen approaching the foot of the hill. Her Majesty, in a dress of elegant simplicity suited to the occasion, supported by Earl Howe, and her Royal sister by Lord Curzon, ascended the steep with great apparent ease. The visit having been kept strictly private, two small parties from Leicester and Loughborough were the only persons besides the Royal party at that time in Bardon. These, on her Majesty's approach, arranged themselves on each side of the path leading to the Summer House, and greeted the justly-beloved Royal Lady with every mark of warm and respectful loyalty. On arriving at the summit, upwards of an hour was spent in the enjoyment of the wonderful prospect, of which her Majesty frequently expressed her admiration—Lord Howe pointing out the many remarkable near and distinct objects which the fineness of the day brought within the reach of view.

The Queen's repast was laid out on the grass on the east side of the Summer House, but her Majesty, finding the sun oppressive, wished to remove to the adjoining shade—and, setting the example, took up the first dish, and was followed by the rest of the party, all bearing some portion of the viands. A spectator describes this scene as one "remining him of the days of old romance." The place selected by the Queen for the rural banquet has since been named "ADELAIDE'S BOWER." It should be added, that so condescending was the illustrious Lady, that on Mr. Mason, of Loughborough, informing her that another party had done themselves the honour to drink her Majesty's good health, the Queen immediately replied, "I hope you have drunk that of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert." Mr. Mason, respectfully bowing, assured her Majesty they had done so. "Then," replied the Queen, "on their behalf and on my own I sincerely thank you."

* Mr. Ludlam.

It is gratifying to me, as, I doubt not, it will be to my readers, that I am enabled, while this sheet is preparing for the press, to add some particulars of another honour conferred on our Forest by this Illustrious Lady. On Saturday, August 13, 1842, her most gracious Majesty (who was again on a visit to the Earl Howe, at Gopsall) was pleased to keep the anniversary of her fiftieth birth-day at Bradgate Park. A sumptuous pic-nic was provided—the trout (for which the Bradgate streamlet is so famous) being literally made to leap out of the water into the frying-pan. The Queen Dowager herself selected the spot for the refecton under the fine old oaks between the Ruins and the brook: and whilst it was being prepared, perambulated with her suite (amounting to twenty “lords and ladies gay”), and Mr. Martin of Stewards Hay and his son, around the remains of the old mansion; examined the Chapel and all those spots which tradition has particularly connected with Lady Jane Grey, and at length returned to the rural banquet that had been prepared for her. It is needless to say how heartily her Majesty’s health was responded to, proposed and elegantly prefaced as it was. by Lord Howe “under the Greenwood tree;” suffice it to add, that the Queen expressed herself delighted with every thing about this deeply interesting spot, and announced her determination to re-visit it on the first opportunity. The carriages were ordered round to the village of Newtown Linford, and her Majesty proceeded on foot up the Rocky Valley—continually stopping to remark the different points of view, and to direct the attention of her ladies to them. On entering the carriages orders were given to drive through the woods to Stewards Hay, where the Queen was received by Mrs. Martin and family, and where the whole party made a considerable stay. Here her Majesty was pleased to accept a copy of “Sketches of Deer in Bradgate Park”* from the hands of the “Amateur,” and to say that “it would long remind her of the happy day she had spent at Bradgate.”

I introduce this account, though somewhat out of place, with the more pleasure, because it conveys (what is calculated to gratify a neighbourhood taking so deep an interest in what concerns this Illustrious Lady) a proof of Her complete convalescence; and because her Majesty is, I believe, the first Royal Personage that ever visited the *Ruins*.

It has already been conjectured that James I., and shown that William III. was at Bradgate in its days of glory. An original document, kindly forwarded to me by Mr. Herrick, removes all doubt about James having visited both Bradgate and Beaumanor, in one of his progresses in 1617, when he was accompanied by his Queen.



* See note under Bradgate.

MARKFIELD.

Hugo de Grentemaisnel tenet de Comitissâ Juditâ 4 carucas terre in Merchefeld. Ibi 2 carucæ fuerunt. Nunc 7 sochmanni, cum 2 bordariis, habent ibi 3 carucas. Valent 10 solidos, modò 20 solidos.
—*Domesday, fol. 236, a. 2.*

MARKFIELD is a considerable village situated on the southern border of the Forest. "This manor was some time the ancient inheritance of the old Earles of Leicester, and (by marriage) it came to the Earle of Winchester,* from whom (also by marriage) it came to Alexander Comin, Earle of Bucquan, in right of Alice his wife."† The advowson, however, fell to the portion of her sister, Helen la Zouch. Mand, daughter and co-heir of the last Alan Lord Zouch (great grandchild to Helen, wife of Alan la Zouch, and daughter of Roger de Quincy), upon partition of her father's estate, in 1314, brought the advowson to Robert de Holland, her husband. In 1340 Henry de Beaumont, Earl of Buchan, died seised of Markfield, as a member of *Whitwick*.‡ In 1413 Henry de Beaumont, Knight, died seised of the manor of Markfield, as a member of the manor of *Loughborough*.§ In 1427 Elizabeth, wife of Henry de Beaumont, died seised of Markfield, as a member of *Whitwick*. February 18, 1461-2, Edward IV. granted the manor (which Catherine, Duchess of Norfolk, had held for term of life, with remainder to William Viscount Beaumont) to William Hastings, Esq., and his heirs. From William Lord Hastings, lineal ancestor to Henry Earl of Huntingdon, who was lord thereof in 1642, the lordship of Markfield passed lineally to the late Earl of Huntingdon, who bequeathed this and his other Leicestershire possessions to the Marquis of Hastings.

The lordship, containing 2292 acres, was inclosed in 1769: Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, being described as Lord of the Manor. The living is in the gift of the Marquis of Hastings. The Rev. Richard Williams, M.A., is the present Rector.

Markfield Knoll and Cliff Hill, which are shown in the map to be isolated masses of sienite, are perhaps as deserving the epithet of picturesque as any portion of the Forest.—The Altar-stone has been referred to under Antiquities. In that Chapter, too, will be found some speculations on the name of this place—a name which, from its affinity to *Merchland* and *Mercia*, is particularly worthy the attention of the Antiquarian.

* Margaret, relict of Saër de Quincy, granted to Stephen de Segrave and his heirs, about 1220, the liberty of carrying one hundred and forty loads of wood in a year from Charnwood Forest to Segrave manor: and also the privilege of feeding one hundred hogs on the Forest without paying pannage: by the homage and service of presenting a pair of gilt spurs on New Year's-day. She also gave him three acres of land in the Forest near *Markfield*, at Littlecloth, with some adjoining land abutting on a toft belonging to Ulvescroft, for the purpose of erecting proper sheds for twenty cows and a bull, and their produce under three years of age: with commons on the *whole Forest* to as great an extent as was enjoyed by the homagers resident on the Forest: and the liberty of taking from the Forest for fuel (ad focum suum), and of erecting a sty (porchariam) for any less number than one hundred hogs, to be fed on the Forest during the whole year, free from pannage: to be held by homage only, and an annual acknowledgment of one pound of cummin.—*See Segrave Chartulary.*

† Burton, page 188.

‡ Esch. 14 Edward III., No. 24, Leic'.

§ Esch. 1 Henry V., No. 45, Leic'.

|| Esch. 6 Henry VI., No. 49, Leic'.

GRACE DIEU.

Gratiâ Dei, Gracedewe.

Beneath yon eastern Ridge, the craggy Bound,
 Rugged and high, of CHARNWOOD'S forest ground;
 Stand yet, but, stranger! hidden from thy view,
 The ivied Ruins of forlorn GRACE DIEU;
 Erst a religious House, which day and night
 With hymns resounded, and the chanted rite:
 And when those rites had ceased, the spot gave birth
 To honourable men of various worth;
 There, on the margin of a streamlet wild,
 Did FRANCIS BEAUMONT sport, an eager child;
 There, under shadow of the neighbouring rocks,
 Sang youthful tales of shepherds and their flocks;
 Unconscious prelude to heroic themes,
 Heart-breaking tears, and melancholy dreams
 Of slighted love, and scorn, and jealous rage,
 With which his genius shook the buskined Stage;
 Communities are lost, and Empires die,
 And things of holy use unhallowed lie;
 They perish—but the Intellect may raise,
 From airy words alone, a Pile that ne'er decays.—Wordsworth.

GRACE DIEU, now only a picturesque monastic ruin, is situated in a secluded little valley on the edge of the Western Forest: and, superadded to the same appropriateness of site which distinguishes the neighbouring religious houses of Ulvescroft and Charley, has that charm with which the greatly-gifted of past times so often invest the place of their birth.

The greatest poet of the age, in the inscription* above given, has so truthfully described this romantic spot, as to present in glowing numbers a far better idea of the ruins, and of the glorious memories still associated with them, than could possibly be conveyed by any prose of mine. The name (which like those of Valle Dei, Valle Crucis, &c., is at once poetical and expressive of humble trust) was given to the place by ROESIA DE VERDON, on her founding here, in 1240, "a Monastery of Nuns, of the Order of St. Austin, to the honour of St. Mary and the Holy Trinity." This eminent lady, who plentifully endowed her foundation, was the daughter of Nicholas de Verdon: † on whose death, in 1231, she, as sole heir, paid seventy marks for her relief and livery of the lands of her inheritance, as also that she might not be compelled to marry. But it appears that she was at that time a widow; for the King, in 1224, had specially written to her, recommending her to marry Theobald le Butiller (a branch of the noble Irish family of Butler), and also to her father, desiring him to back le Butiller's suit. Yet though she married a person of so distinguished a family, neither Roesia nor her descendants bore his surname, but still retained that of de Verdon. She died in 1247.

* From a tablet in the grounds of Cole-Orton Hall, inscribed "To the Memory of Francis Beaumont."

† This Nicholas, in 1218, became one of the Sureties that Marmion should be a faithful keeper "of Tamworth Tower and Toun."

Dugdale gives the following Charter of the foundress, dated 1242, when Bishop Grosseteste confirmed the foundation:—"Know, present and future people, that I, Roesia de Verdun, have granted, and by this my Charter confirmed, to God and St. Mary and to the Church of the Holy Trinity of *The Grace of God* at Belton, and to the servants of Christ, the Nuns in the same Church serving God, in pure and perpetual alms, for me and my heirs, and for the souls of my parents and of all my ancestors, and of my husband's, all my manor of Belton, with the advowson of the Church of the same place, and all other the appurtenances and liberties which I and my ancestors ever used to have in the said manor; to have and to hold of me and my heirs, in pure and perpetual alms, freely, quietly, peaceably, and entirely, in demesnes, villanages, meadows, pastures, woods, the Park, warren, mills, men, rents, services, sequels, and all other things to the said manor belonging, without all exaction, service, and peculiar demand. And I, Roesia, and my heirs, will for ever acquit the aforesaid Nuns of the Royal service which belongs to the said manor, with the appurtenances abovesaid to the same Nuns in the aforesaid Church serving God, against all nations. And that this my gift, grant, confirmation and warrantization, may obtain perpetual firmness, I have thought fit to corroborate this my present writing with the putting to it of my seal. Witnesses—Sir Richard de Harecourt; Sir Ernald de Bois; Sir Ralph Basset, of Sapcote; Sir Richard, of Normanville; Sir Adam, of Quartermars; Sir Miles de Verdun; Roger Gernun; Sir Adam de Newport; Master Thomas de Verdun, then Rector of Ibstocke; Henry de Hertshorn, and others."*

As from the rules of their Order the Nuns of Grace Dieu were prohibited from leaving the limits of the Nunnery, King Henry III., by his Royal Charter, gave the Abbess liberty to constitute an attorney in all cases in which they had cause to sue or be sued.† Agnes de Gresley appears to have been the first Prioress, but either from her resignation or death Mary de Stretton, with the appropriation of the foundress, was elected in 1243, and shortly after the Prioress and Convent obtained permission for a market and fair at their manor of Belton.‡

Amicia, widow of Ancher de Freschenville,§ Sir William de Wastneis, Lord of the Manor of Osgathorpe (1279),|| and John Comyn, Earl of Buchan in 1306, were all great benefactors to this House.¶

In 1356 it was found to be of no damage to the King or any other, if the King give leave to Sir John de Crophull, Knt.,** and Margaret his wife, to enfeof Ralph de Crophull, Parson of Cottingham, and Richard de Makkeley, Clerk, in the advowson of the Priory of Grace-

* Mr. Peck's translation of the original Charter, in *Mon. Ang.*, Vol. I., p. 933.

† Prynne's "*Exact History*," Vol. III., p. 100. ‡ Carta, 28 Henry III., m. 4.

§ She gave them certain lands and *villans* at Staveley Woodthorpe, co. Derby.

|| He gave them common pasture for their cattle at Osgathorpe.

¶ Buchan gave them 100 acres, "*de vasto suo in Whytewyke et Shepeshed . . . fossato et muro includere et parcum inde facere*," and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow and $1\frac{1}{2}$ of wood in Belton, which he had of Elias de la Grene and John Morell, of Belton.

** Summoned to the "*Conc. quorundam Magnat. tenend. apud Westmonast.*" 35 Edward III., as appears by some manuscript notes in Brooke's (Somerset) copy of Dugdale.

Dieu.* The Crophulls were descended from the foundress, and were seated at Sutton-Bouington.

From this period till 1534, little is known of this Priory. In that year a King's writ appointed a Commission to visit the Religious Houses of this county. The visitors thus appointed were Dr. Leigh and Dr. Layton, and John Beaumont, Esq., of the adjoining parish of Thringstone. In the "*Compendium Compertorum*," which gives their reports, is found the following entry with respect to this house:—

"GRACE DIEU MONIALIUM.

Incontinentia, { Elizabeth Hall, } Pepererunt.
 { Catharina Ekisildena, }

Superstitio, { Habent in veneratione zonam et partem tunicæ Sancti Francisci que
 { (ut creditur) parturientibus conducunt.

Fundator—Dominus Ferys.

Redditus annuus centum et novem marcæ.

Debet domus xx lib."

This accusation of a violation of their Monastic vows, thus made against this secluded Sisterhood, is a severe one; but, happily for their posthumous reputation, the report of the Commissioners presents, on the face of it, strong reasons for doubting its accuracy. It contains gross misstatements. It makes "Dominus Ferys," instead of Roesia de Verdon, the founder—it fixes the annual revenue at nearly £30. under the valuation given in Speed—it appraises the goods and cattle belonging to the Priory at prices which, even for those times, were unprecedentedly low (*See note, page 168*), and all this *for a reason that cannot be mistaken*.

Then, one of the Commissioners (alas that he should have borne the noble name of Beaumont!) subsequently proved himself utterly unworthy of all credibility: having confessed to forgeries and "misdemeanours" against Lady Powis and the State to the amount of £20,861.† He was, besides, a party most deeply interested in procuring a false report of this Nunnery, as is proved by his having had conveyed to him, "*the very next day after the surrender*," the whole of the site of the Priory and the demesne lands!

Again, Catharine Hall and Catharine Cheseldyne (Ekisildena), notwithstanding this alleged incontinence, were pensioned off at the dissolution with the largest pensions allowed to the Nuns: to which they certainly could have had no claim after a proved violation of their vow.

The Commissioners valued the stock and furniture belonging to the Priory and its Grange at £125. 7s. 4d. "Of this sum," says the report, "there remaineth a specialty of £90. 6s. 6d. upon John Bewman, Gent., for money by him due for the guddes and cattell of the seid Priory by him bought." The bells, white plate, lead, and other things remaining unsold, fell, however, into the hands of this most dishonest Commissioner, as may be inferred from

* Ad quod dampnum 30 Edward III., No. 12, Leic'.

† See Nichols, under Thringstone.

the following memorandum, added to the report:—"Mem. that the seid John Bewman was put in possession of the scite of the seid Priory, with the demaynes to yt apperteinyng, to our lorde the Kinge's use, the 28 day of Octr., in the 30 yere of our seid soveraigne Kyng Henry VIII.)*"

Agnes Litherland, the Prioress, and fourteen Nuns, having probably been allowed, as in other cases, a year of grace, finally surrendered the Convent, October 27, 1539. Sir Humphrey Foster, Knt., apparently as a screen for Beaumont, had in the interim obtained a grant of the site of the Priory, with the demesne lands and the Grange, by the service of a fourth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent of 50s., and *immediately* conveyed the whole to Mr. Commissioner Beaumont!†

The following account of "Peucions allottyd to the late Prioress and Convent, by the Commissioners," is interesting, as showing the names of the Sisterhood:—

| | £. | s. | d. | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|
| Fyrst to Annes Lytherland, late Prioress, | 2 | 0 | 0 | Amy Gyllott | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Ann Grasley, sub-Prioress | 2 | 0 | 0 | Amy Ashby | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Kateryn Chesyleyn .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Emme Michel | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Margaret Powtrell .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Eliz. Prestbury | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Kateryn Baker | 2 | 0 | 0 | Johan Barwell | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Elizabeth Hall | 1 | 13 | 4 | Eliz. Farnham | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Dorethy Englyshe | 1 | 13 | 4 | Agnes Cosby | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Margaret Knottford | 1 | 13 | 4 | Eliz. Trotther | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Rewards, varying from 60s. to 30s., were likewise given to the Prioress and the Nuns; and from 20s. to 20*d.*, to 38 servants of the Priory.

"Mr. Beaumont," says Nichols, "was soon interrupted in his newly-acquired property, by a claim of the Earl of Huntingdon"—on which he addressed a letter to Lord Cromwell, couched in terms of cringing servility, stating his fear of Lord Huntingdon to be very great, and that he had "had secret warnyng to wayre a privy coate."‡ In 1541 he was cited to show by what title he held the site of the Priory; and he appears to have answered this citation satisfactorily, for he still retained possession. In 1550 he was elected Recorder of Leicester, and in the same year was appointed Master of the Rolls. In 1551 he levied a fine with proclamations of this lordship, to the use of King Edward VI. and his successors; and in 1552, when on his "misdemeanours" becoming fully detected, he surrendered this and other estates; Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, by the King's letters patent obtained a grant, in fee farm, of the capital mansion of the Manor-house of Grace Dieu, with the whole manor of Grace Dieu and the Grange called Myral Grange, and several other lands, all lately

* The valuation of the different items given in the inventory is exceedingly curious:—"CATTELL at the Priory and in the Forest—12 oxen, £10.; 8 kyne, and a bull calf, 66s. 8*d.*; 24 beasts in the Forest, £7.; 7 calves, 15s.; 6 horses, 66s. 8*d.*; 34 swyne, prayed at 26s. 8*d.*; sum of the whole, £25. 15s. At Merrell Grange, 12 drawing oxen and steres for the plowe and wayne, £8. 9s.; 10 kyne and a bull, £4. 10s.; 5 yerlyng calves, 20s.; 5 wenyng calves, 13s. 4*d.*; 5 mares and 1 fole, 40s.; 30 swyne and pigges, sold for 33s. 4*d.*; the whole, £18. 15s. 8*d.* GRAYNE at the Priory.—In the West barne, 7 qrs. of whete, 6s. the quarter, 42s.; two bays of barley, 24 qrs., at 3s. 4*d.*, £4.; one bay of oats, 8 qrs., at 2s. 4*d.*, 18s. 8*d.*; one bay of pese, 4 qrs., at 2s. 8*d.*, 9s. 8*d.* In the Est barne, 15 qrs. of whete, at 6s., £4. 10.; 1 bay of rye, 4 qrs., at 6s., 24s.; 10 qrs. of barley, at 3s. 4*d.*, 33s. 4*d.*; 52 lodes of hay, at 2s. 8*d.*, £6. 18s. 8*d.*" &c. &c.

† See Nichols' West Goscote, p. 653.

‡ Cotton MSS., Cleopatra IV., 132.

part of the possessions of John Beaumont, Master of the Rolls.* He did not long survive the loss of his reputation and estates, but in five years after Elizabeth, his widow, claimed and regained possession of Grace Dieu. The glory shed around the spot by the succeeding Beaumonts may well be said to have wiped away this, the only stain, that ever sullied the lustre of their escutcheon. Of these good and gifted men my space only permits me to give a mere enumeration, instead of the lengthened notice which their virtues, and their contributions to literature deserve.

Francis Beaumont, eldest son of the Master of the Rolls, and of his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Hastings, succeeded to the estate on the death of his mother. He had been educated for the bar, and in 1593 became one of the Justices of Common Pleas, and was afterwards knighted. Burton speaks of him as "that grave, learned, and reverend Judge, Francis Beaumont, Esq."†

Sir Francis Beaumont married Anne, daughter of Sir George Pierrepont, of Holme, and dying April 22, 1598, left by her three sons—Henry, John, and Francis. Henry, who was only sixteen at his father's death, was knighted by James I. at Worksop, in 1603, on his Majesty's journey from the Scottish to the English capital. He died in 1606, leaving his lady (Barbara, daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Foston, Esq.) then pregnant. This posthumous child proving a daughter (who afterwards married first John Harpur, Esquire, and secondly Sir Wolstan Dixie), the estate devolved on John Beaumont, Sir Francis's second son, who married Elizabeth Fortescue (a descendant of George, Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV.), was created a baronet in 1626 and died in 1628, having obtained considerable reputation both as a poet and a soldier. His poem of "Bosworth Field," published, with several minor poems, by his son, in 1629, was praised by Jonson, Drayton, and several other contemporary writers.

Francis Beaumont, the great Dramatic writer, whom Wordsworth calls

———— That famous youth full soon removed
From Earth, perhaps by SHAKSPEARE'S self approved—
FLETCHER'S associate—JONSON'S friend beloved—

the third son of Sir Francis, was born at Grace Dieu in 1586, and died in his thirtieth year: having, in conjunction with Fletcher, added *fifty-three* plays to English Dramatic literature, and written many poems of exquisite pathos and beauty.‡ His brother, Sir John Beaumont,

* The rent paid by the Earl was £24. 13s. 4½d.—*Hil. Rec., 2 Eliz., Rot. 19.*

† In the margin of a copy of Burton, formerly belonging to William Inge, Esq., of Thorpe Constantine, occurs the following manuscript note:—"One Judge Beaumont living at Grace Dieu, two men came before him for justice—and one of the men prayed the ground might open, and he might sink, if what he attested in his own cause was not true—and the ground immediately opened; but the Judge, by pointing with his finger, ordered them to go off, and it closed again; and that place will now sound on being struck on, as Robert Beaumont, of Barrow-upon-Trent (who married one of Sir Thomas Beaumont's co-heirs, and had his part of the estate) affirmeth."

‡ He married Ursula, daughter and co-heir of Henry Isley, of Sundridge, Kent, by whom he had two daughters; one of whom, Miss Frances Beaumont, died after 1700, having long been in the enjoyment of a pension from the Duke of Ormond, in whose family she had resided. Many of her father's unpublished poems, in her possession, were lost at sea, in a voyage from Ireland.

the first baronet, left by his wife, Elizabeth Fortescue, seven sons and five daughters. The sons were—John, his successor, Francis (another poet of the family who afterwards became a Jesuit), Henry, Gervase, George, Thomas, and Charles, all of whom except Thomas died unmarried.

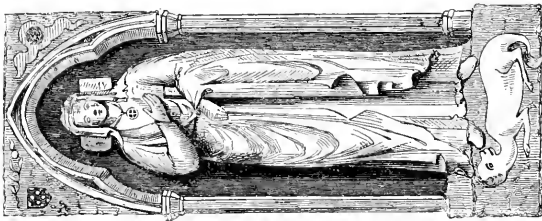
Sir John Beaumont, the second baronet, the Editor of his father's poems—himself also a poet—was as remarkable for astonishing feats of strength and agility as for his cultivation of the elegant arts. He fell at the siege of Gloucester, 1644, bravely fighting for his Royal Master, and was succeeded by his brother Thomas, the third baronet.

Sir Thomas married Vere, daughter of Sir William Tufton, brother of the Earl of Thauet, and dying in 1686 left four daughters: of whom Cecily, the eldest, inherited Grace Dieu, and married her distant relative, Robert Beaumont, of Barrow-upon-Trent, Esq. Mr. Beaumont sold the estate to Sir Ambrose Phillipps of Garendon, whose lineal descendant, Charles March Phillipps, Esq., is its present possessor.

A few remarks on the present state of the Ruins and Precincts seem needed.—Next to those of Ulvescroft, they may safely be pronounced the most picturesque in the county; even though havoc was long at work in despoiling them, and though they are now converted to ignoble uses. The ground plan can still be traced; even the boundary of the garden, which Burton says “the Nuns made in resemblance of that upon Mount Olivet Gethsemane”* is still defined. The spot, from its beauty as well as its associations, has often been a favourite haunt of Wordsworth, who, in the Dedication of his “Poetical Works” to the late Sir George Beaumont, thus speaks of it and of the inspiration he caught there:—“Several of the best pieces were composed under the shade of your own groves, upon the classic ground of Cole-Orton, where I was animated by the recollection of those illustrious Poets of your name and family who were born in that neighbourhood; and, we may be assured, did not wander with indifference by the dashing stream of Grace Dieu and among the rocks that diversify the Forest of Charnwood.”

GRACE DIEU MANOR-HOUSE, the tasteful residence of Ambrose Lisle March Phillipps, Esq., and its adjoining Roman Catholic Chapel (both near the Ruins), add considerably to the beauty of the rich landscape that adorns this part of the Forest.

* Burton mentions a similar imitation of Mount Sinai by the Abbot of Burton-upon-Trent, still called Sinai Park.



THE TOMB OF ROËSIA DE VERDUN.

BELTON.

(Belinton, Beleton.)*

BELTON is a delightfully-situated village on the northern border of the Forest—of the boldest scenery of which it commands some strikingly beautiful views. In the time of Edward the Confessor it contained six plough lands and a half, of the yearly value of ten shillings. At the time of the Conqueror's Survey it was the possession of Hugh de Grentemaisnell, and was then valued at 60s. The land was equal to four ploughs, and two were employed in the demesne, and four bondmen. Twenty-five villans, with one Knight and four bordars, had also eight ploughs. There was a wood one mile long and half a mile broad,† part of which remains to this day.

The ancient and noble family of De Verdon long held this lordship, till Roesia bestowed it upon the Convent of Grace Dieu. At the Dissolution it was granted to Sir Humphrey Foster, who soon after sold it to John Beaumont: at least, so states Mr. Nichols. But it would appear from what he gives elsewhere, that Foster merely held the manor till Beaumont could with a better show of decency put in practice the arts which had obtained him Grace Dieu. Nichols‡ gives the following "Copy of the particular for a grant to John Beaumont, Esq., 36 Hen. III., as preserved in the Augmentation Office. John Beaumont dothe desyre to bye of the King's Majestie the manors, lands, tenements, parsonages and other heredytaments, which be conteyned in the partyculers hereunto annexed, and be of the clere yerely valew of fortye-nyne pounds tenne shillings and too pence, and not above, the tenthes thereof deductyd. In wytness whereof, unto thys bill annexed unto the partyculers of the same lands, the said John Beaumonte hath set hys sealle and subscrybit hys name, the xxvth day of June, in the sxx and thyrtythe yere of the raigne of our most drad soveraigne lord Kyng Henry theight, by the Grace of God, of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, Kyng, defendour of the faythe, and in earthe supreme head of the Church of England and also of Ireland.

"By me, JOHN BEAUMONT."

This is followed by two valuations of land and wood, respectively signed by Robert Burgoyne and William Cowper. The former has appended to it this "Memorandum. It is requisite and necessarie that all the wodds groying upon the waste or common within the Foreste of Charnewode, which doth extend or lye within the precinete of Gracedewe, Belton, or elsewher in the same Foreste, belonging to the late Monasterie or Priorie of Gracedewe, may be reserved for the Kyng's Majestie, &c., for and towards the mayntenance of his Gracys lands, tenements, milnes, &c., belonging to divers the late Monasteries and Priories in the county of Leicester dissolved. Also the advowson of the Vicarage of Belton belongth to the Kyng's Majestie, by reason of the late Priorie of Gracedewe foresaid; but whether his Grace hath the gufte thereof by reason of the premisses, or by reason of the Parsonage then impropriated to the said Priorie, which is not here in value, I knowe not. Pleasith yt your Mastershipp to be advertysed that the premisses *be no parcell of eny manor, grange, or Parsonage, wyche doth excede the clere yerely value of* £xl.; neither

* For the origin of this name, see Chapter on Antiquities. † Domesday, fol. 233. ‡ West Goscote, p. 663.

dothe adjoyne to eny of the Kyng's Majesties houses which ben kept or reserved for the accesse and repayre of his Highness; nor eny of them byn within V or VI miles of eny of his Grace's Forests, chaces, or Parks, that I knowe off. Ferder, there have not byn eny other fines gevyn, &c. And for the town of Belton forseid, in as much as I can knowe, there will be no fynes specially mentioned. Also, I knowe nott that the King's Majestie hath the gyfte of eny spiritual promotion, &c.—nother that any of the fermors or eny other person adjoyning, have desyred to purchase the same. Ferther, I have not to my remembrance delivered eny values of eny of the premisses to eny person but to *John Beaumont Esquyere, who brought me your warrant for the same.*

“Per me, ROB'TUM BURGOWN.”

The other statement is interesting, as showing the quantity of wood and the uses to which it was applied. “Belton oute wood conteynith CCCC acres, whereof is waste C acres, growing by parcels of C yeres growth, reserved for tymber for thyrtye tenantz holdyng of the seid manor by cople at wyll of the lorde, to repayre their tenements which they have had in the seid wood by custome of old tyme used, *therefore not valued*; which CCC acres are to be solde to John Beaumont Esquyer, togyther with the forseid manor and CCIII acres resydue, being all tymber, lyeng togyther; and abuttyth uppon a close called *The Lees* on the West, and uppon a close called *Rotherhawe* on the North, and uppon a lyttel dyke which departeth the lordeshypp of Shyppeshed and the seid wood on the Est, and uppon a hyghwey ledyng through the same wood next above Loughborough highwey on the South; reserved to the Kyng's Highnes by the advyce of Syr Rycherd Ryche, Knyght, Chauncellor of his Grace's Courte of Augmentations and the Councell of the same, to repayre the Kyng's Highnes' lands in the countye of Leicestre or elsewher.—In a close called *Rotherhawe* is by percells X acres of XXX yeres growth, valewed at xiiis. iiiid. the acre, which is in the hoole £vi. iiis. iiiid.

“Per me, WILL'M COUPER.”

“July anno regni Hen. VIII. xxxvi.º *pro Johanne Beaumont.*”

It need scarcely be added, that shortly after this manœuvring, this most corrupt Commissioner and (subsequently) Judge was put in possession of Belton! However, in 1553, he was obliged to surrender it with his other possessions to make satisfaction for the gross pecuniary delinquencies which he committed while Master of the Rolls.* Edward VI. then conferred the manor and the advowson of the Rectory on Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, whose son Henry sold it to Sir Francis Beaumont. It was afterwards the possession of the Eyres, and was sold in 1793 to Edward Dawson, Esq., of Long Whatton, whose son, Edward Dawson, Esq., of Whatton House, is the present proprietor. The patronage of the living belongs to the Marquis of Hastings. The present Vicar is the Rev. Robert Blunt, M.A.†

FYNES PLACE and LE MOTE were ancient mansions here: the latter was probably the residence of the De Verdens. There were also three PARKS, called the Great, the Little, and the Hill Park. The great Fair obtained for this place by Roesia de Verdon, as men-

* See under Grace Dieu, p. 167, 168; also Nichols, under Thringstone.

† It may be named as a singular coincidence, that Mr. Blunt descends from the de Verdens, ancient lords of this place, through Margaret, the third daughter of John de Verdon, who in 1329 married Sir William le Blunt, common ancestor of the Blounts and Blunts.

tioned under Grace Dieu, is still one of considerable importance. The tenants of Belton paid annually one mark for common pasturage on the Forest.

THE CHURCH,

which is the one seen in the distance in the engraving of the Monastery of St. Bernard, is, both from its style and situation, a fine object. It contains several ancient monuments, the chief of which is the beautiful tomb of Roesia de Verdon, removed from Grace Dieu, after the Dissolution* (see engraving). Many of the Beaumonts lie interred here. An acrostic epitaph on Hamlet Toone† is singularly curious.

Amongst the Vicars, the Rev. John Burrows‡ (1600) and the Rev. Theophilus Hastings, ancestor of the present Earl of Huntingdon, were remarkable men: the one for his erudition and extensive benevolence, the other for his wit and eccentricities.

* In 1839 Lord Shrewsbury and Mr. A. L. Philipps, by consent of the then Vicar, Mr. Eddowes, opened the tomb of Roesia de Verdon, and obtained his permission to remove her bones to the new Chapel at Grace Dieu; which permission, however, was withdrawn on the same evening, on Mr. Eddowes supposing that there might be some inconvenience to himself in consequence.

† He was of a very old family long resident here: one of whom married the daughter of Sir Robert Markham, Bart., and another a Leake, of Wymeswold. Mr. Henry Toone, solicitor, of Loughborough, is a descendant.

‡ From him descend the Burrows' of Stockwell.

ADDITIONS TO THURCASTON.

In the Falconer Pedigree (p. 132) Mr. Nichols, whom I followed, erroneously wrote *Clayham* for *Cuyham*, or Keyham, co. Leicester, where Thomas Falconer was seized of lands in 1346; John Cotton in 1478; and Robert Hubbard in 1802.—(See *Thurcaston and Swithland*.)

ANSTEY and CROPSTON, the former a Chapelry and the latter a Hamlet belonging to Thurcaston, are omitted for want of room. The same must be said for NEWTOWN LINFORD, which, on account of its Church (in which the Commissary of Groby holds his Court), deserved a lengthened notice: and for ROTHLEY, which from its great importance was intended to have a chapter devoted to it.

NOTE.—The counters below were found near Rothley Temple, in 1830, together with 21 others. The larger one is "Billon" or black money, in imitation of the groat of base silver called Billon, coined in France by the English. The 3 fleurs de lis, which were first used in lieu of semé of fleur de lis by Henry V. of England, while Prince of Wales, in the 6th year of his father's reign (*Ruding, Vol. II., p. 274*), show that this piece cannot have been coined earlier than that year, 1405. But its weight, 60 grains, shows that it was not coined earlier than 1412, nor later than 1464: for the weight of the groat was reduced from 72 to 60 grains in the former of those years, and further reduced to 48 grains in 1464 (*Ruding, Vol. I., p. 33*); since which time it has never been raised in weight.—The smaller, which is brass, shows the Lions of England, as they have been borne in the Royal Arms since the reign of Stephen.—They have been shown to one of the Curators of the Coins at the British Museum, by whom both are said to be older than the Nuremberg Tokens, so commonly to be met with. One of these, remarkably well preserved, was found a few years previously at Rothley, with the motto HEVT RODT MORGEN TODTT, meaning "To-day alive, to-morrow dead."



SHEEPSHED.

(*Schepeshede, Schepeshered,* Shepysshed, Schepished, Scepeshefile Regis, Sepshed, Shepshed, Sheepshead, &c., &c.*)

Godwinus tenet de Rege in feudo 2 hidas et dimideam in *Scepesvede* et 4 carucas terras. Osgot tenuit cum saca et soca. In dominico habuit 2 carucas et 2 servos; et 30 villani, cum 12 bordariis, habent 19 carucas; et 20 sochmanni cum 2 militibus et 6 villanis et 4 bordariis habent 21 carucas. Ibi molinum de 5 solidis et 1 acra prati. Silva 1 leuca longitudinis et 4 quarentenarum latitudinis. Hanc terram vastam invenit. De hæc terrâ excont 6 libræ ad præcepta episcopi Baiocensis pro Servitio Insule de With.—*Domesday, fol. 230, b. 2.*

SHEEPSHED, the head of the fourth and last division of the Forest adopted in these pages, is situated close to its northern border. The numerous variations of the spelling of the name—variations which, indeed, still prevail—might lead the etymologist to doubt its true origin. It seems clear, however, that it is derived from the Forest *Bercaria*† or *Sheep-shed*, once standing on the spot: and a pronunciation, as well as a mode of spelling, in accordance with this derivation, has of late years become nearly general. The village is populous and the lordship of great extent—stretching, like Barrow, to the centre of the Forest, and embracing a considerable portion of it.

Sheepshed, in the Ecclesiastical division of the county, is situated in the Deanery of Ackley, or Akeley: from an ancient Park of which name, lying in this parish, this Deanery was so called.‡

Sheepshed appears to have been, at an early period, of considerable ecclesiastical consequence. It was the Church of the Deanery—it was the head of a Soke§—it was, as is

* It is remarkable that the most frequent mode of spelling Swineshead, or Swineshed (Lincoln), was *Swineshed* in old writings; and there can be little doubt that *shed* is an abbreviation of *sheved* (sheaved), that is, thatched.—See the Rev. Dr. Verburgh's *History of Steaford*.

† These bercaries included folds, wash-pits, and every other necessary appendage to a sheep farm. They were of great antiquity, and the privilege of erecting them was deemed one of considerable importance.—See Dr. Oliver's *History of the Steaford Guilds*, p. 33.

‡ I have no hesitation, even in the absence of positive proof, in making this unqualified assertion. The origin of the names of all the other Deaneries is satisfactorily accounted for: they all bear that of their respective Hundreds with which they are also co-extensive. This, following the same rule, should be the Deanery of West Goscote: but, without any reason having ever been assigned for the exception, it has, for time immemorial, been called the Deanery of Akeley. Acle, or Ackley, or Okeley Park, situated in this parish, was conferred by one of the Earls of Leicester on the Abbey of St. Mary de Pratis. The Abbey had, besides considerable property, the tithes, the Church and soke of this place—which seems, indeed, to have been their chief dependency in this part of the county: and hence arises the probability that the name of this Park was given to the Deanery to avoid the confusion that would have resulted from there being two Deaneries of Goscote. I submitted this opinion to a well known Ecclesiastical antiquarian—Mr. Stockdale Hardy—who at once admitted that, if any place called *Acle* could be proved to have been in the Deanery (of which he was not aware), it must unquestionably have been the origin of the name. It is written *Acle* in the Matriculus of Bishop Welles, 1220.

§ There are, indeed, grounds for believing that this soke had two others, those of Brackley and Halso, in some way dependant upon, or connected with it:—"Concessimus canonicis totam decimam de pannagio et venditione nemoris utriusque Soche de Schepished, Brackley, et Halso."—*Grant of Alan la Zouch*. The terms "de utraque sochâ," &c., occur in grants of the founder of Leicester Abbey. The true meaning of the word *soke*, which originally signified a

shown by the extract prefixed to this Chapter, either in the possession or jurisdiction of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux; the brother of the Conqueror—and it subsequently became, as will be shown, much connected with Leicester Abbey. The extract further shows that there was a mill here, valued at 5s. a year. This mill, with other possessions and privileges, was conferred on the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis by Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton, with the whole of the grinding for the soke (viz.: the parishes of Hathern, Dishley, Whatton, and Lockington),* and *for his own house there*. He also undertook that neither himself nor any of his heirs should thenceforward erect any mill within the territory of Sheepshed or Hathern.† The possessions and privileges which the Abbot and Convent obtained here were valuable and somewhat singular. They had the Church, and all other Churches in the soke—they had tithes‡—they had common over the whole Forest for their tenants, with housbote and heybote§ for their houses in Sheepshed, and timber for their mill—they had, of the gift of Roger de Quincy, the right shoulder of every wild beast (*cujuslibet feræ*) taken in the Park of Acle—and they had view of frankpledge and common fine.

The Church—the most singular and venerable fabric within the precincts of the Forest—seems also to justify my attaching great ecclesiastical importance and high antiquity to Sheepshed. It was conferred on Leicester Abbey by Robert Bossu,|| but it appears, by its style of architecture, to have been erected long anterior to this time.

It was doubtless the ancient Forest that first gave importance to Sheepshed; and having, as I conjecture, from the interlining of the word "*Regis*," added to its name in Domesday book, been a hunting residence for Royalty before the partition of the Forest, it continued to derive consequence from the subsequent possessors, the Earls of Leicester and Winton.

The Park of Acle appears to have been of considerable extent, comprising the whole of the tract lying between Little Haw and the present Oakley or Akeley Wood, as well as the wood itself. The appearance of the ground bears evidence of its having been a very ancient

plough, is, confessedly, obscure. It is also frequently ambiguous. "In hoc differebant inter de *sac* et *soe*. *Sac* privilegium erat sine potestas cognoscendi causas et lites dirimendi. *Soc*, territorium sive præcinctus in quo *saca* et cætera privilegia exercebantur: *Soc*, curia: *Sac*, causarum in ipsâ curiâ cognitio."—*Hickes*. That is, *sac* was the Court—*soe*, or soke, the territory over which the jurisdiction was exercised. In law Latin *soca* is used for a seigniorship enfranchised by the King, with liberty of holding a Court of his socmen or socagers. Littleton says, "whatever is not tenure of chivalry is tenure in socage." Grose defines socage "an exclusive privilege claimed by millers, of grinding all the corn which is used within the manor or township in which their mill is situated."

* See Register of Leicester Abbey.

† This passage shows that the Earls of Winton, and probably the Norman Earls of Leicester, occasionally resided here. The manor, indeed, early ceased to be a Royal manor, and became limited to the Honor of Leicester, or at least devolved on the owner of one moiety of that Honor.

‡ They had also tithes of the assarts on Charnwood Forest.—See *Rentale*.

§ Housbote was fuel; haybote, materials for fencing.

|| As the number of Christians increased, so first Monasteries, then finally parish Churches were builded in every jurisdiction: from whence I take our Deanerie Churches to have their original, now called mother Churches. the rest being added since the Conquest, either by the lordes of everie towne or zealous men, loth to travell farre and willing to have some case by building them neere hand. Vnto these Deanerie Churches also the cleargie in old time of the same Deanerie were appointed to repaire at sundrie seasons, there to receive wholesome ordinances and to consult upon the necessarie affairs of the jurisdiction.—*Hollinshed, Reprint, page 227*.

inclosure, and a portion of it being still called *Kirk-hill* might give some reason for concluding that a Church may at an earlier period have stood there. Little Haw was another but smaller Park in this parish, and was probably used for fattening deer. There is a tract formerly called Henley, lying between the town of Sheepshed and Garendon, called fifty years ago "The Yeanleys," now "The Inleys."* Oxley Grange is another old inclosure; it lies between Sheepshed and White Horse Wood. Oxle occurs in an Inquisition (given below) taken at Newtown Linford in the 13th of Edward I.

The boundaries of this extensive† and remarkable parish, as translated from the Register of Leicester Abbey, may not be unacceptable to those readers connected with the neighbourhood.

"Beginning at the bercary of Lontherburg, the boundary goes to the heyweye and thence to Charleston..... And thence through the middle of Charley inclosure. And thence through the middle of the ancient Hall of Charley, which is called Erleshall. And thence to Rohay Well. And thence to Conston Cross, and thence to the Reynstones. And so on to Tynte-medowe, leaving Grenewode on the left hand. And so on to Clepston. Thence to Fayrewey—and thence to the Erlesdyke, close by Beltonwode, following the Erlesdyke as far as between Walhyrne, Beltonwode and Deryntonhaw. And thence to Wytonylde. And thence to Lonelyreyn, and so on to Oldedyke ford—and thence to Mydelslecheds—and thence to Goibous lydyaw: then to the Gonhull, and so to Thorpe Lydgate, by following a *Cross*."‡ One of these ancient crosses, formed as was often the custom, either by cutting or raising the earth, may still be seen in Nettle Hill, nearly opposite Nanpantan.

From the Earls of Winton the lordship passed to the three daughters of Roger de Quincy, whose respective marriages with Ferrars, la Zouch, and Comyn, have been so often referred to. These ladies made partition of the lordship. Two parts, in 1309, were the possession of William Comyn, who obtained them in fee from his brother John, Earl of Buchan; these parts then passed by marriage to Henry Beaumont, and continued to be a possession of that family till 1463, when they were forfeited by the attainer of William Viscount Beaumont, and conferred by Edward VI. on William Hastings, his Chamberlain, to be held of the King by homage only, in lieu of all services. After the execution of Lord Hastings, in 1483, Francis Lord Lovel, nephew of William Viscount Beaumont, obtained from Richard III. a grant of these two parts, his family having apparently inherited the other portion by descent

* Usque veterem campum de Gereldoniâ, qui vocatur le Halow, juxta Henley.—*Ord's Churtulary of Garendon; Nichols, Vol. III., p. 834, col. 1.*

† It contains 5171 acres.

‡ The following shows the parts within the limits of the Parish Church of Sheepshed:—"Inquisitio facta apud Lindeneford, Dominicâ in crastino Translationis Sancti Thomæ Martyris anno regni Edwarde XIII., per breve domini super limitibus parochiarum ecclesiarum abbatis Leyecestrie, per Johannem de Anesty Rob'tum Curther de eadem, Thomam Dattet de eadem, Rob'tum le Sawere de eadem, Rob'tum filium Johannis de Groby, Rob'tum Molendinarium de eadem, Henricum Gea de Bradgate et ceteros; qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Haldeshay, Wormings, Tenterwode, Middelraken, le syke usque Halywele Lawedyke forde et idem usque Hyweyeside que est ad barcarium de Loughteburg predictam, Sryebrokishe ride, et Calange, Oxle, tota warda Goddeberti, Sryntoneshawe, Crophyrst, Birchwode, Milnellys [cum] parcutus de Acley et Littlelau sunt infra limites parochie ecclesie prædicti Abbatis Leye' in Schepepyshed.—*Nichols' West Goscote, p. 1011.*

from Alan la Zouch. On the death of Lord Lovel (killed in Stoke Field, 1485) the entirety again reverted to the Crown, and in 1502 two parts of this lordship, with the manor of Loughborough and the advowson of the Churches, were granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, in exchange for the manors of Grafton and Hartwell. By the attainder of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, in 1533-4, they again became vested in the Crown, and were sold by Queen Elizabeth, in 1561, to Henry Manners, Earl of Rutland. Francis, Earl of Rutland, died possessed of these said parts in 1632, after which they passed with Garendon to his grandson George Villiers, the second Duke of Buckingham.* The other part of Sheepshed (the possession of the Lovels) had been conferred, in 1485, on Sir John Savage, of Clifton, co. Chester, Knight, who commanded the left wing at Bosworth Field—as a reward, *cum aliis*, of his services on that memorable occasion. Sir John Savage, grandson of the above, sold Sheepshed to Thomas Duport, Esq. Henry Duport, Esq., was owner of Sheepshed in 1619. The manor, with nearly the whole of the freehold, soon afterwards became the possession of Sir Ambrose Phillipps, by purchase from the Duke of Buckingham's Trustees. There was at that period a large number of copyholds, but on a trial at law, about twenty-five years ago, it was decided that the Lord of the Manor was not bound to renew the lives in the leases, so that nearly all the copyhold property has now become the freehold of the present Lord of the Manor, Charles March Phillipps, Esq.

The parish, as has been stated, extends far into the Forest; in fact, this lordship and those of Barrow, Whitwick, and Newtown Linford (a member of Groby), all converge to, and nearly meet at the central point, Charley; an extension which they doubtless acquired when the Forest passed from the Crown to the Lords of Manors, in the time of Henry II. A considerable tract in the Sheepshed portion of the Forest, near the part where the Earl's Dyke is most readily traced, is still called Leicester Plain: which name it probably derived from the Earls of Leicester, and which must have formed, in early times, an important part of their hunting grounds. The Earl's Dyke must have been a work of considerable magnitude; and though the precise period of its formation can only be conjectured, its object was apparently to serve the double purpose of a well-defined boundary and mutual deer fence between the Earls of Leicester and Chester. Its bank was, doubtless, surmounted by paling.

IVESHEAD, in this lordship, is, after Bardon and Beacon, the noblest of the Forest hills. It is isolated from the general range, and when viewed from some points presents a bold and mountain-like outline, with a double summit, resembling Sadde-back. The eastern of these summits is now crowned with one of the Ordnance Station Towers. Swains' Hill—a name which suggests the probability of the spot having been a Swanimote Court—lies at the foot of Iveshead; and at a little distance from the latter stands THE HANGMAN'S STONE, which furnishes the subject of a Legend appended to this Chapter. Scout-house Hill, another eminence in Sheepshed parish, is said to have been so named from its having had upon it, in early times, a lodge for deer-watchers or *scouts*. It is marked with a gallows in Wild's map of Charnwood: having been the spot on which John Harris, of Sheepshed, in 1730, and William Warner, of Garendon, in 1732, suffered the penalty of death—the

* Two parts of Sheepshed were held of the King, *in capite*, in 1320: as parcel of Groby in 1326: as member of Whitwick in 1340: as parcel of the Honour of Winton in 1346: of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1407.

former for the murder of Warner's father, and the latter (his associate also in this crime) for returning from transportation for deer stealing.*

The parts of Sheepshed now forming an appendage to the Garendon domain will be described under the latter place.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Botolph, is well worth the attention of the curious in ecclesiastical architecture. It was evidently erected at two different periods, the older portion being built of Forest stone and the more recent one of freestone. It contains several fine monuments of the Duports, the Beaumonts, and of the Phillipps family.

| VICARS. | PATRONS. |
|---|--|
| Gilbert, 1220 | } Prior and Convent of St. Mary de Pratis, Leicester. |
| Simon de Reyleston, 1252..... | |
| William de Wivelstone, 1334 | |
| John Hutchinson, 1534. | |
| Peter Ollerenshaw, from 1569 to 1621. | |
| Robert Palmer, 1647 to 1658 | } Committee of Sequestrations. |
| Robert Lawrance, Minister, buried Dec. 30, 1664 | |
| Robert Port, 1665; buried Jan. 26, 1671..... | } Sir Thomas Beaumont, Bart. |
| William Rose, Feb. 14, 1670..... | |
| Thomas Barradaile occurs Vicar 1689 | } Sir Ambrose Phillipps. |
| John Robinson, March 13, 1698 | |
| Richard Kay, March 19, 1701 | |
| William Antill, Sept. 21, 1703 | |
| Gervase Bradgate, Sept. 21, 1713..... | } William Phillipps, Esq. |
| Wall Parker, Nov. 26, 1717 | |
| Thomas Heath, M.A., Feb. 2, 1735 | |
| William Farnham, Oct. 3, 1765..... | Samuel Phillipps, Esq. |
| Charles Alsopp, June 12, 1777 | Sir William Gordon, K. B. |
| Joseph Harriman Hamilton, 1831..... | C. M. Phillipps, Esq. |

* The circumstances connected with this shocking deed present some rather peculiar features. William Warner, senior, who had saved some property in the service of the Garendon family, had a house in the Park. He was a widower, and had a son and daughter. The son, suspecting him of an intention of marrying one of the domestics at the Abbey, hired or persuaded Harris, who was the lover of the sister, to murder the old man. Old Warner left the servants' hall at eleven o'clock at night, and was discovered the next morning inhumanly murdered in the centre of the Park. The son impeached Harris (who had hitherto borne a good character) and claimed the King's pardon, but being indicted for deer stealing he was transported. Returning from transportation he was apprehended at Castle Donington, and at the Assizes next following ordered for execution on the spot where his confederate or victim was then hanging in chains.

LEGEND OF THE HANGMAN'S STONE.

It happen'd but twice in the tide of time,
And but once since the Conqueror came,
That all Shepeshed men were in bed at ten,
And all Whytwyk wights the same.

There were fat red deer in old Bardon Park—
Fat hogs on the great Ives Head—
Fat goats in crowds on the grey Lubelouds—
Fat sheep in the Forest shed.

There were coney in store upon Warren Hill,
And hares upon Long Cliff dell;
And a pheasant* whirred if a foot was stirred
In the Haw of the Holy Well.

There were trout in shoals in the Charley Brook,
And pike in the Abbot's Lake,
And herons in flocks under Whytwyk rocks,
Their nightly rest would take.

All these were the cause why the Shepeshed men
And the Whytwyk wights the same,
Never slumber'd when the clock told ten,
But watch'd for the sylvan game.

What matter that Warders and trusty Regarders
Look'd well to the Forest right;
The Shepeshed encroachers were aye practis'd poachers,
And their day was "the noon of night."

If the smaller prey did not hap in their way,
What matter? The sheep and deer
Were a goodlier meal, and the verb to steal
Was neuter or nameless here.

John of Oxley had watch'd on the round Cat Hill,
He had harried all Timber Wood;
Each rabbit and hare said "ha! ha!" to his snare,
But the ven'son *he knew* was good.

A herd were resting beneath the broad oak—
(The Ranger he knew was ahd :)
One shaft he drew on his well tried yew,
And a gallant hart lay dead.

He tied its legs, and he hoisted his prize,
And he toil'd over Lubeloud brow;
He reach'd the tall stone standing out and alone,
Standing then as it standeth now.

With his back to the stone he rested his load,
And he chuckled with glee to think
That the rest of the way on the down hill lay,
And his wife would have spiced the strong drink.

That rest of the way John of Oxley ne'er trod:
The spiced ale was untouched by him;
In the morning grey there were looks that way,
But the mountain mists were dim.

Days pass'd and he came not—his children play'd
And wept—then gambol'd again;
They saw with surprise that their mother's wet eyes
Were still on the hills—in vain!— * * * * *

A swineherd was passing o'er Great Ives Head,
When he noticed a motionless man;
He shouted in vain—no reply could he gain—
So down to the grey stone he ran.

All was clear.—There was Oxley on one side the stone,
On the other the down-hanging deer;
The burden had slipp'd, and his neck it had nipp'd:
He was hanged by his prize—all was clear!

The Gallows still stands upon Shepeshed high lands,
As a mark for the Poacher to own,
How the wicked will get within their own net:
And 'tis still call'd "THE GREY HANGMAN'S STONE."

* Much uncertainty prevails respecting the period of the introduction of the pheasant into England. The following extract from a Grant of Edward the Confessor to Randolph Peperking, in the Records of the Exchequer (Encycp. Londinensis, Art. Pheasant), will prove that it was much earlier than is generally supposed:—

*The Edward Koning
Habe given of my Forest and keepinge,
Of the hundred of Chelmer and Daning,
To Randulph Peperking and his kindling,
With harte and hinde, dor and bocke,
Ware and fox, cat and brocke,
Wilde fowell, with his flocke,
Fesant hen and fesant cocke,
With greene and wilde stob and stork, &c. &c.*

GARENDON—GERALDONIA.

(*Gerondon, Gerouldon, Garendon, Gereveden, Wereweden, Garendedon, Garraden, Garraton.*)

Abbatia de Gerendon, filia de Waverley.—*Monasticon, Vol. I., p. 68.*

GARENDON, from its former consequence as a Religious House, its present beauty as a private residence, and its extensive connexion with the Forest, justly claims a distinguished place in this History. To do ample justice to the Abbey and the noble domain that now surrounds it, would, however, require a volume instead of the few pages which the plan of this work, already much extended beyond the originally contemplated limit, will allow.

Garendon Abbey, according to Burton and Dugdale, was founded by Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, A.D. 1133. Other writers have assigned a later date to the foundation, viz., 1169.* This discrepancy may have arisen from a circumstance which seems to have escaped the notice of Historians, viz.:—that the Abbey was not originally erected on the site which it afterwards occupied, and on which the present mansion stands. This fact of a previous site seems highly probable, at least, from a passage in the Garendon Chartulary, in the possession of the Ord family, where Roger de Quincy permits the Abbot and Convent “to inclose with a fence and ditch all his wood of Kntt (Knightthorpe), and the whole space from the hedge on the western side of the Goat-house to the head of the Thweyt towards the Forest, WHERE THEIR ABBEY WAS ANCIENTLY FOUNDED.”—(*Ubi Abbatia eorum antiquitatis fuit fundata.*) Another passage points to the present Hermitage Plantation† as the probable spot on which the Abbey was originally begun; for it is shown by the note subjoined that “the Thweyt” (the locality of which is now lost) was to the west of what is still called Thorpe Brand.‡ Want of water, greater eligibility of situation, or even, as in the case of Dale Abbey, some supposed miraculous intimation may have led to the removal. Or it may have arisen from the dispute about the right to the domain of Garendon, which appears to have existed between Bossu and William Gerebert, the latter asserting that the lordship, of which Garendon was a member, had been unjustly taken from his father; but still willingly granting it for the foundation of the Abbey (*ad fundamentum Abbatie libens concedo*), and promising, if the Divine Mercy should ever enable him to recover the manor, that he would greatly augment the possessions of the Monks.§

* Knighton, who was followed by Tanner in the first edition of his *Notitia Monastica*, states 1169.

† The name seems to afford some clue. So far as I can learn, it has been for time immemorial given to this place, and Hermitages are known to have been the original commencement of many Religious Houses.

‡ Geoffrey, son of Ralph de Louteburg, granted to the Abbey of Garendon all his right in the wood of Thorpe Anker and Garendon, “a fossato inter campuni de Thorp et campum de Gerandon usque ad le Brende: et à le Brende usque ad le Thweyt: et à le Thweyt usque ad hayam subter caprinam ab occidentali parte, quâ descenditur ad Abbatiam.

§ See the *Carta Gereberti* from the Garendon Chartulary (*Nichols' West Goscote, p. 814*), which on several accounts is singularly curious. It is without date, but is addressed to Alexander, who was Bishop of Lincoln from 1123 to 1147, and it is therefore conclusive of the last foundation of the Abbey having taken place between those periods.

The Abbey was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and for the CISTERCIAN ORDER, whose strict rule has been so fully described in the notice of Mount St. Bernard as to render it unnecessary for me to dwell upon it here. Unfortunately there is extant no engraving of this mitred Abbey, but that it was an edifice of considerable size and consequence may be gleaned from various circumstances incidentally mentioned in the voluminous records still preserved respecting it, as well as from the Inventory taken at the Dissolution. The founder endowed it with five carucates and three yard lands in Garendon, two in Ringlethorpe, certain lands in Disbley and Ravenstone, the wood of Sheepshed (a mile and a half long and a mile broad), and Michelholm, in the lordship of Lockington, for a fishery in the Trent.*

But if the founder's grants to the Abbey were neither numerous nor extensive, those of succeeding benefactors were so. Ernald de Bois, his Seneschal, with the permission of the Earl, gave to the Monks of Garendon the whole village of Bittlesden, Bucks., that an Abbey of the same Order might be there founded.† Bossu, however, further assisted the Monks of Garendon, by procuring for them from Ranulph, Earl of Chester, a perpetual grant of the Castle and vill of Mountsorrel, the lordship of Charley, a large portion of Charnwood Forest, and Holy Well Haw. They obtained, also, from the same Ranulph, the privilege of common pasture for all their cattle in Barrow. Margaret, Countess of Winton (sister of Bossu), was a large benefactress. Roger de Quincy, William Earl of Warwick, the Despensers, the de Burghs, the Mowbrays, the Harcourts, the Rosels of Rempstone, &c., &c., conferred many gifts and grants, several of which are coupled with the condition that they should be buried in the Abbey, with the obsequies usually performed for one of their departed Monks. But a mere enumeration of the benefactions conferred on this Abbey would occupy so many pages that it must suffice to refer the reader to the copious and well-digested account given by Mr. Nichols, who, in addition to abstracts and analyses of the two valuable Chartularies in the possession of the Marquis of Lansdowne and Mr. Craven Ord, gives, from an *Insperimus* of 1340, an exemplification of *one hundred and ninety-nine* gifts and grants to this house. Among the many things worthy of notice in these Chartularies and the Register are:—the gift of a burgess in Leicester, who should buy them bread and lodge them:‡ the gift of villans, with their chattels and sequel:§ the release of a villan from his homage, which was granted for the sum of 5s.:|| the grant of the whole salvinage, &c., of all the wild beasts in the inclosure of *Katt*, to fence in, hunt, and take: an exemption of this Abbey from pontage, pavage, and murage, through the whole realm:¶ the particulars of a compo-

* "In manerio meo de Loehentan in Michelholmio ad faciendam unam piscariam locum competentem in Trente."—*Vide Chartam Fundatoris.*

† An old manuscript cited by Burton under Thorpe Arnold, says, "Tempore Regis Stephani Ernaldus de Bosco seneschallas Roberti comitis Leicestrie fundavit Abbatiam de Bittlesden," on which Dugdale remarks, "Ita incepta et fundata est Bittlesden anno Gratie MDCXLVII anno XIII à fundatione de Gerondon:" which furnishes another confirmation of the year 1133-4 being the date of the foundation.

‡ Grant of Robert Bossu.

§ Grant of Roger de Quincy. "*Sequela*" meaning the little treasures which bad taste and worse feeling has, of late years, led people to call "*encumbrances*." The word is, perhaps, descriptive of the then prevailing modes of life: the whole family following the villan to his labour.

|| The lord was Robert Putrell (Poutrell) and the villan Robert of Hoton.

sition of three marks for tithes due from the Monks to the Parson of Prestwold, for their lands in that lordship: * a mandate of Henry III. (1254) to the Abbot to receive and entertain Jewish converts for two years: † a singular gift of Quenilda, wife of Ralph Stabularius, which recites that before her marriage she had given on the altar of Dishley Church, all her right and claim to lands held by the Monks in Costock—the Monks in return agreeing to maintain her for life—and after her marriage she quit-claims these lands to the Monks (the witnesses to this quit-claim are all *females*—Petronilla, Edalina, Gira, Emma, and Agnes): an exemption for the Cistercian Order from being cited into the Secular Courts, and from the episcopal authority of any Bishop (p. 819): a writ from Edward I., dated *Kynges-Clypeston* (Clipstone in Sherwood), *XVI^o die Octobris* (16th of October), *anno regni nostri XVIII.*, shortly before which Edward had probably hunted in Charnwood: an exception in favour of the Abbot of Garendon from the order prohibiting any Cistercian going beyond the seas.—An indenture of Henry de Beaumont—“To all those wiche these li'es indented schall se or here, Henr' of Beaumo't erle of Boghan, constabull of the Scottis and Alys his wyffe, gretynge in Gode: know ye hus to have gyffen and granted licence for us and owre heires to monk William of Erle and monk Robert his sun, that thei mey gyffe all their londes and ten'tys wiche thei have in the toune of Alton and Rawnston (whiche londes and ten'tys be of onre fee) to thabbat and monkys of the Abbey of Garadon,” &c., &c. In addition to these may be named some “peculiar and especial” grants and privileges from Popes Lucius II., Alexander IV., and Anastasius III.

From the same source, too, is derived the following:—“In the year of our Lord 1219, Saër de Quincy, Earl of Winton, and Robert son of William Harcourt, ‡ and William Earl of Arundel, set out to the Holy Land: and before they arrived there, the Lord Saër de Quincy being seized on the way by a grievous illness, having summoned his attendants, entreated them and bound them by an oath that after his death they would burn his heart, and having carried the ashes to England, would bury it at Garendon”—which was done. He died in the month of November, and his body was buried at Acre. Roger de Quincy, his son, died a.d. 1264, and was buried in the Abbey Church of Garendon. Margaret, Countess of Winton, sister of Robert Earl of Leicester, and mother of the above Roger, was buried at the entrance of the same Church.

The following list of the Abbots of Garendon is partly taken from Nichols' Abstract of the Register, and partly from other sources:—

GALFRIDUS Abbas occurs with Robert Bossu as witness to a grant of Camerarius de Clintonâ. He may therefore be concluded to have been the first Abbot.

Thurstan occurs as Abbot in 1176.

* This is of considerable interest, as showing the liability of the Cistercians to pay tithes. Mr. Carte (see a note in Nichols' West Goscote, page 787) was of opinion that they were only liable for lands *rented* by them: but the original composition, and Hugh Malet's grant, clearly show that the lands they held in Prestwold were their own property.

† Reginald, Abbot of Garendon, was severely wounded by night on his sick couch, by one of these convicts, in 1196, which led to their expulsion.—*See Chartulary.*

‡ This William gave to the Monks of Garendon the lordship of Stanton-under-Bardon, very shortly after the foundation of the Abbey.

1189, Obiit Turstanus Abbas Gereldunæ. Successit Wilhelmus Prior ejusdem domûs.*

1195, Wilhelmus Abbas Gereldunæ dimisit abbatiam suam. Successit Wilhelmus Abbas Miravallis.†

1196, Reginaldus Abbas Geroldoniæ graviter vulneratus est in infirmatorio suo nocte propter quod missum est per generale capitulum Cistertii ut omnes conversi ejusdem loci dispergerentur.‡

1219, Adam Abbas septimus Waverle cessit; successit ei Adam Abbas Gereldoniæ.

1226, Cedente Wilhelmo subrogatur Reginaldus Prior Geroldoniæ ejusdem domûs Abbas undecimus.

1234, Cedente Reginaldo, subrogatur Andreas Prior de Garadon ejusdem domûs Abbas undecimus.

Simon was Abbot in the reign of Henry III. Robert de Thorp 1274. Thurstan appears to have succeeded.

Roger occurs in 1281. Eustace was his successor.

In 1295 Johannes Abbas Gerendonæ profitetur obedientiam episcopo Lincoln. et benedicitur 8 kal. Junii.

In 1320 John de Sutton was Abbot.

In 1349 William de Sanctâ Cruce, late Abbot of Garendon, was, at the King's instance, made the first Abbot of St. Mary de Grace, or East Minster, London, founded by Edw. III.

Thomas Syeston, alias Shepshed, was Abbot in 1510, and held that office till the Dissolution, in 1536.§

There were at that period fourteen Monks. The Abbey was valued by the Commissioners at £129. 6s. 8d. clear annual value. The Valor Ecclesiasticus makes it £159. 19s. 10d.

But the numerous Granges belonging to this Abbey afford, perhaps, better evidence of the extent of its possessions than mere numerical statements. These were—Dishley, Ringelthorpe, Systonby, Alton, Ravenstone, Stanton, Burton-on-the-Wolds, Goadby, and Holywell, in Leicestershire, Rempstone and Costock in Nottinghamshire, and Heathcote in the Peak of Derbyshire.

It was in 1540 that Henry VIII. by his letters patent (in consideration of the sum of £2356. 5s. 10d.) granted to Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland, the site and late domain of Garendon Abbey, together with the manors of Garendon, Dishley, Wymeswold, Sheepshed, Weston, Swithland, Burton Undershawe, Worthington, Mountsorrel, Thorpe Acre, Leicester, and Cortlingtock; the Rectories and Chantries of Garendon and Dishley; the Manor of Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire, and the Manor and Grange of Ravenstone, in the counties of Leicester and Derby; with all rights and privileges to which the said Abbey was in any way entitled.||

A branch of the Digby family appears to have occupied the Abbey soon after; for Francis Digby, of Garendon, Gentleman, on the 30th of November, 1551, received a pardon from Edward VI. for having counterfeited the lawful coin of the realm.

Subsequently, the Earls of Rutland seem to have made Garendon their occasional resi-

* Annales Waverl. † Ibid. ‡ Ibid. § The Abbots of Garendon sat in Parliament.

|| See Grant, &c., copied by Nichols, p. 838, from Peck's manuscript of the original, at Garendon, 1730.

dence; for Sir Thomas Beaumont, in his "Shepherdess" (written about 1621), after highly extolling, in the song of one of the Charnwood shepherd bards, the personal and mental graces of Catherine, Marchioness* of Buckingham, the daughter of Francis, Earl of Rutland, says:—

" Her father, high in honour and descent,
 Commands the Sylvans on the North of Trent;
 He at this time, for pleasure and retreat,
 Comes down from BELVOIR—his ascending seate—
 To which great Pan has lately honour done:
 For there he lay—so did his hopeful son.
 But when this Lord, by his accesse, desires . . .
 To grace our dales, he to a house retires
 Whose walles are watered by our silver brookes,
 And makes the shepherds proud to view his lookes."

Sir Thomas Beaumont's poem, in addition to its many "happy conceits," is valuable as incidentally affording, at least, a poet's testimony on a subject on which historians have not agreed, viz.:—that the union of the magnificent favourite with the "Beauty of Belvoir" was one of mutual affection, and neither forced on an unwilling lover by the lady's noble father, nor effected by any unworthy stratagems on the part of Villiers. Arthur Wilson and other writers have attempted to show that it was a stolen match; that Buckingham "having taken off the Lady Catherine from her father's house, detained her for some time in lodgings, and only married her when alarmed by the threats of the Earl that his greatness should not protect him if he wounded the honour of the family." Mr. Jesse, in his *Memoirs of the Court England*, says "the affair is altogether involved in mystery." Certainly the beauty and wealth of the young heiress—the richest in the kingdom—forbid the supposition that a *parvenu* like Buckingham, even when basking in the full sunshine of the Court, should not consider her a fitting match. The probability therefore is, that the objections were on the Earl of Rutland's side. That the Duke was a kind and affectionate husband is indisputable. Sir Henry Wootton says, "he loved her dearly, and well expressed his love by bequeathing her all his mansion houses—a power to dispose of his whole personal estate, and a fourth part of his lands in jointure.† The Duchess, who was in a room above her husband at the moment he was assassinated by Felton, manifested the excess of her feelings on the occasion in a way that showed the strength of her attachment.‡

The slight connexion of the Duke of Buckingham with the Forest does not call for any lengthened notice of him in these pages, but I cannot with so much propriety omit some mention of his mother, who may be said to be a native of it. Of this remarkable lady

* Nichols, Vol. III., p. 200, states that George Villiers, Marquis of Buckingham, was married in 1620, and created Duke in 1623; though in the Villiers Pedigree, on the preceding leaf, he dates his marriage in 1626 and his death in 1628.

† Reliq. Wotton, p. 236.

‡ Lord Carleton, in a letter to the Queen, thus describes the scene:—"The Duchess of Buckingham and the Countess of Anglesea came forth into a gallery that overlooked the hall, where they might behold the blood of their dearest lord gushing from him. Ah! poor Ladies! such was their screechings, tears, and distractions, that I never in my life heard the like before, and hope never to hear the like again."—*Jesse*.



LONG CLIFF.

Mr. Jesse says:—"The Peerages, ever complaisant, speak of her as having been the daughter of Anthony Beaumont, of Glenfield, in the county of Leicester, Esq." Her own importance at the Court of James, and the grandeur achieved by her family, may render her actual origin a matter of interest. Roger Coke, in his "*Detection of the Court of England*," informs us, on the authority of his aunt, who was connected by marriage with the Villiers family, that she was a kitchen-maid in old Sir George Villiers' establishment; that he became enamoured of her, and persuaded his lady to place her about her own person; and adds that, after the death of his wife, Sir George presented her twenty pounds to improve her dress, which appears to have produced such a wonderful effect that shortly afterwards he married her. Weldon styles her "A gentlewoman whom the old man fell in love with and married." Arthur Wilson's account is somewhat different. The old Knight, he informs us, was on a visit to his kinswoman Lady Beaumont, at Cole-Orton, in Leicestershire, where he found "a young gentlewoman of that name, allied and yet a servant, who caught his affections, and whom he afterwards took for his wife." Her name was undoubtedly Beaumont, and however distantly, she was certainly connected with the Leicestershire family.* "By the death of Sir George Villiers, in 1606, she was left a widow, with only £200. a year. She was afterwards twice married; first to Sir William Rayner, and secondly to Sir Thomas Compton. The unexampled rise of her son was a new era in her existence; it raised her from an impoverished country lady to be the proud manager of a Court. On the 1st of July, 1618, she was created, by letters patent, Countess of Buckingham in her own person: an unusual kind of distinction, of which the last example was in the days of Queen Mary. The Countess did not leave her family in the back-ground—and if beauty be deserving of rank, the honours conferred on them were not ill bestowed."†

Her youthful grandchildren—the issue of the marriage of the Duke with Lady Catherine Manners—were the constant pet companions of James I. For hours every day would the Monarch romp with them, though he had been remarkable for cold reserve towards his own little ones. The author of *Aulicus Coquinariæ* styles them a race "handsome and beautiful"—an hereditary advantage, says Mr. Jesse, if we may judge by many a fair face of later times.—The Countess of Buckingham, the extraordinary mother of an extraordinary son, ended her days at the Gate House, Whitehall, in 1632, and was interred in Westminster Abbey.

Catherine, Duchess of Buckingham, whom Nichols erroneously calls the Duchess Dowager, formed a second marriage with the Earl of Antrim. The King disliked the match, but forgave the widow of his beloved friend. Buckingham left four children by her.—*Charles*, who died an infant; *George*, the witty Duke, who succeeded him; *Francis*, who

* Nichols, in the Villiers Pedigree (East Goscote, p. 198), styles her "Lady Mary Compton, daughter of Anthony Beaumont, seventh son of William Beaumont of Cole-Orton," which leads one erroneously to conclude that she was "Lady Mary" when Sir George married her!! Jones, in his account of Cole-Orton Hall, makes her "the daughter of Francis Beaumont."

† Besides the unexampled rise of her son George, she lived to see her eldest son Viscount Purbeck; her third, Earl of Anglesea; and her daughter Countess of Denbigh. Of the two half brothers of the Duke (the sons of Sir George Villiers, by his first wife, Audrey Saunders) William was one of the first Baronets; and from Sir Edward, President of Munster, descend the Viscounts Grandison and the Earls of Clarendon and Jersey.—*Jesse*.

fell in the civil wars; and *Mary*, married to the Duke of Richmond.* After the death of her father, the Earl of Rutland, in 1632, the Duchess became possessed of Garendon in fee; and, by a fine, conveyed the estate to Trustees, who re-conveyed it to her son.

George, the second Duke, having been declared a traitor by the Roundheads, Garendon, together with the manor of Sheepshed, &c., &c., was sold June 10, 1652, under an Act of Parliament, for the consideration of £354. 11s. 5½*d.*, to John Thurlowe, John Hunt, and Nathaniel Waterhouse.† The Duke, however, recovered possession in 1657, chiefly by the interest of Lord Fairfax, whose daughter he had married after having been rejected by one of Cromwell's daughters.

In 1682 the mansion house was the residence of John Barwell, Esq., of Kegworth, and at this period the lordships of Garendon and Sheepshed were purchased of the Duke of Buckingham for the sum of £28,000.,‡ by Ambrose Phillippis, Esq., at that time an eminent Barrister of the Middle Temple, but shortly after knighted and appointed King's Sergeant.

[I had prepared for insertion here a copious, and indeed an elaborate account of the PHILLIPPS family, who from their long and honourable connexion with the County, and particularly with the Forest, have an especial claim to notice in these pages, but want of space obliges me to omit it. A sketch of the celebrated poet, Ambrose Phillippis, is omitted for the same reason.]§

An anxiety to improve and adorn the estate, and to ameliorate the condition of the large population connected with it, may be said to have been hereditary in the Phillippis family. Ambrose Phillippis, Esq., grandson of Sir Ambrose, called, while on his travels in Italy, "The handsome Englishman," erected the tasteful triumphal arch that graces the Sheepshed entrance, and also the obelisk and temple. He, too, designed, and his brother Samuel erected, the chaste garden-front, which has been so generally admired. Sir William Gordon, K.G., who married the widow of the last-named gentleman, appears to have treated the fine timber of the estate as unsparingly as the Duke of Buckingham had previously done—in the Park alone he felled trees that realized £5000. (and in other parts of the domain £1,500. more); so that the present well wooded state of this beautiful Park of 400 acres, is a matter of surprise to those who know how it has been denuded.

But great as has been the spirit of improvement in the owners of Garendon, it was reserved for the present greatly and justly-esteemed possessor, Charles March Phillippis, Esq.,|| to add the crowning grace, by the addition of so large a part of the contiguous Forest as probably to have doubled both the value and beauty of the domain.¶

* Jesse's "Court of England."

† From a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, intituled "Purchasers, &c., of the Estates of the Royalists, in the years 1651-1654."—*Nichols*.

‡ The Duke is said to have delayed the execution of the conveyance till he had cut down timber to the amount of £5000!—*Bray's Tour*.

§ Their descent from the de Lises, great benefactors to the Abbey, is a coincidence deserving mention.

|| Who represented the County of Leicester in several Parliaments.

¶ Some of the Charnwood farms belonging to the Garendon estate, especially those called The Hurst Farm and Inglebury Lodge, respectively occupied by Mr. Cumberland and Mr. Webster, are little inferior either in quality or cultivation to the best farms in Leicestershire.

With a taste and judgment that cannot be too much admired, Mr. March Phillipps has formed from his Forest Lodge green drives of some miles in length, extending to Five Tree Hill and Nanpantan. These, winding through thriving plantations of larches, laurels, and rhododendrons, amidst most picturesque rocks, and formed of closely shorn Forest turf, afford a luxury unsurpassed by any estate in the kingdom.

The accompanying sketch of LONG CLIFF is taken from a part of one of these green rides, and may serve to give a faint idea of some of the beauties of this part of the Forest; but neither the pencil nor the pen can adequately describe the exquisite distant and varied prospects which, through the vistas of these fine plantations,* are constantly presented to the eye.

Loughborough, when viewed from the summit of Long Cliff, has a noble, city-like appearance, and may remind the spectator of the loveliness of situation ascribed to it by Camden, from the circumstance of its contiguity to the Forest.†—From this point, too, the trains of the Midland Counties' Railway may be observed, almost uninterruptedly, from Sileby to Derby, and form a pleasing object darting across the grand panorama.

The wonderful changes in the effects of the Forest landscapes, caused by the variations of the atmosphere, can scarcely have failed to be noticed by those at all acquainted with the district. These changes, during March and April of the last year (when I was a sojourner on the Forest), were so striking and so varied as often to fill my mind with perfect astonishment! At one period a fog, acting as a magnifier, threw an uncertainty and even a witchery over the hills that were singularly pleasing. At another, snow might be observed lying on the mountain tops, while verdure and warm sunshine cheered the valleys. Then, appearances very like what are called "dissolving views," would present themselves. Often, the mists would brood on the steep hill sides, while the peaks were gilded with the rising or setting sun. Again—the peaks were hidden in a cap of clouds, while the slopes and low grounds were all brightness.

And now the mists from earth are clouds in heaven :
 Clouds slowly eastellating in a calm
 Subliner than a storm : while brighter breathes
 O'er the whole firmament the breadth of blue,
 Because of the excessive purity
 Of all those hanging snow-white palaces.—Wilson.

The rainbow, always more grand and vivid in mountain districts, is peculiarly so on Charnwood. From the summit of Long Cliff I noticed one of such extraordinary brilliancy and beauty as I never before beheld; one base of the mighty arch (it was near sunset) rested like a pillar of fire on the top of Buck Hills, while the other shed all the prismatic colours, with a vividness quite new to me, over the groves of Garendon. The peculiar purple haze which often invests the Forest hills is exceedingly beautiful. Nor should the fern fires—

* The Long Cliff Plantation is not yet of twenty years' growth, and the larches are not inferior to those of an equal age in the celebrated Forest of Athol.

† Nunc verò secundum locum à Leicesteriâ inter omnia hujus comitatûs oppida sibi suo jure vindicat, sive amplitudinem, sive structuram, sive etiam sylvarum amantatem spectes; sub ipso enim *Saltus de Charnwood sive Charley*, longè expanditur.—Camden, p. 359.

now, alas! becoming yearly a greater novelty—be forgotten. One evening, while I was making some astronomical observations from the top of Long Cliff, one of these suddenly flashed out near Whittle Hill, and, almost simultaneously, another on Ives Head. The effect was extremely fine; the busy, but blameless incendiaries, were plainly discernible, and presented to the imagination a tolerable picture of the Persian Fire-worshippers.

The Forest air seems to claim some notice.—No person can visit Charnwood without immediately becoming sensible that he is in a fresher and purer atmosphere than that which surrounded him in the valleys. Invalids are quickly aware of the bracing effect of the Forest breezes, and persons affected with asthma find almost instantaneous relief. What is called “change of air” may, therefore, be enjoyed by the inhabitants of Leicestershire without going out of the county, and the change will probably be found as great and as efficacious as a removal to places a hundred miles distant.

I regret that I neglected to make observations on the barometer and thermometer during my abode on Charnwood; neither can I learn that any person has so carefully done this, as to furnish any *data*. The result, I am persuaded, would greatly tend to confirm the growing opinion of the extreme salubrity of the Forest.

Near Long Cliff is the hill of Nanpantan*—beneath which is the neat Forest cottage of Thomas Warner, Esq., and under the Buck-hills is that of William Paget, Esq. *The Sweating Tree*, which created a great sensation a few centuries ago, stood between the Outwoods and the Holy-well, on the spot now occupied by Mr. Giles's cottage.

The following lines of Bancroft, a Midland County Poet of the seventeenth century—omitted in their proper place—form a suitable pendant to the description of Grace Dieu:—

Gracedew, that under Charnwood stand'st alone
As a grand relicke of Religion,
I reverence thine old (but fruitful) worth,
That lately brought such noble Beaumonts forth,
Whose brave, heroic Muses, must aspire
To match the Anthems of the Heavenly quire.

The mountaine crown'd with rocky fortresses
And sheltering woods secure thy happinesse:
Thou highly favour'd art (though lowly plac'd)
Of Heaven, and with free Nature's bounty grac'd
Herein grow happier, and that bliss of thine
Nor pride o'ertert nor envy undermine!

He thus addresses the surrounding Forest:—

Charnwood! if all thy stones were turn'd to bread,
(As once the fiend did such a motion make)
It would be more than ever Xerxes fed,
Or Tenariffe and Ætna both could bake:
And hungry Churles that rail at Souldiers
Would rend up Rock-bread and turn Pioneers.

* It deserves to be recorded as a singular fact, that John Cartwright, Esq., caught at this place, in 1837, two sea birds, seldom seen south of the most northern part of Scotland, whose short wings and heavy body would incline one to doubt the possibility of their arriving so far inland. Mr. Churchill Babington, to whom Mr. Cartwright allowed me to send one of them, has inserted it in his short supplement to the “Ornithology of Charnwood Forest.”—(See Appendix, p. 73.)

HOLY-WELL HAW.

(*Hole-welle, Haliwell, Haliwella, Halliwellhaga, Holuwella.*)

A little, lowly HERMITAGE it was,
 Down in a dell, hard by a Forest side,
 Far from resort of people that did pass
 In travel to and fro! A little wide
 There was a little Chapel edified,
 Wherein the Hermit duly went to say
 His holy things, each morn and even-tide;
 Thereby a crystal stream did gently play,
 Which from a sacred fountain welled forth away.—*Spenser.*

HOLY-WELL HAW, once a lonely little Hermitage, but now a farm house, on the borders of the Forest, derives part of its name from a well, to the waters of which, even in recent times, considerable virtues have been attributed. The adjunct *Hawe*, which the reader will have frequently noticed in these pages, simply signifies an inclosure.* The precise date of the foundation has not been clearly ascertained; it existed, however, as a Hermitage, previously to 1180, as appears by the grant of Robert de Jort, by whom it was, perhaps, originally erected as a sort of *Hospitium* for wayfarers crossing the Forest.†

The Garendon Chartulary says “Heremitorium de Halliwellhaga dedit nobis Robertus de Jort et decem acras terre in campo de Wymundewaldá.”

In the *Testa de Nevill* the Abbot of Garendon is said to have held, in 1240, “unam vicariam‡ [vaccariam] cum quodam parvo bosco: et appellatur Haliwelle Hawe de feodi Roberti filii David.”

“In 1326,” says Mr. Nichols (Vol. III., p. 122), when speaking of this Hermitage, “the Abbot of Rocester, in Dovedale, obtained leave to remove the Chapel of Holy-well to a Chantry founded in the Abbey Church at Rocester for the soul of Robert Cotes:§ and it was then found that the said Abbot held a virgate of land in Holy-well for the use of the said Chantry.” This is utterly wrong, as may at once be seen by a reference to *Tanner’s Notitia*,

* It perhaps literally means only a fence; and hence the thorn most used in fencing is termed *hawthorn*.

† Præterea et Heremitorium de Halliwell-haw concessi et confirmavi in perpetuam elemosinam ita plenariè in longitudine et latitudine sicut habuerint anno Incarnationis MCLXXX. Teste Gilberto de Segrave, &c. Ranulph, Earl of Chester, confirms this grant, and speaks of the place as “*de feodo meo de Haliwell-hagá.*”—See Chartulary.

‡ Nichols (Vol. III., Part I.) suggests that this word should probably be “*bercarium.*” He was somewhat nearer to the truth than the *Testa*, but it is singular that he, so conversant with the Garendon Chartularies, should have failed to see what was the right word. “Item unam VACCARIAM que vocatur Haliwell que taxatur ad LVIIIS. IIIId.” are the words of one of his own extracts from that source.

§ It was probably similarity of name and of loneliness of situation that led Mr. Nichols to consider that Holy-well Haw Hermitage was the Chantry founded for the soul of Robert Cotes: but Tanner is quite conclusive to the contrary, quoting letters patent (19 Edward II., p. 1, m. 10). “Rex concessit abbati de Roucestre in Dovedale quod ipse capellam de Halywell in Com. Warwic. à loco illo amovere et cantariam pro animabus Roberti de Cotes et Ricardi Fylon in eadem capellâ dudum ordinatam in eccl. convent. ipsius Abbatis de Roucestre facere et sustentare.” And under Rocester he gives—“Pro Cantariâ Roberti Cotes et Ricardi Fitton in capellâ de Halliwell sitâ in loco solitario et periculoso propter latrones super regiam stratam de Watling Strete transferendâ usque ad eccl. conv in Rocester.”

under Haly Well (p. 583) and Rocester (p. 497), where it plainly appears that it was *Haly Well, in Warwickshire*, whence the Chantry, founded *there* for the souls of Robert Cotes and Richard Fitton (elsewhere Fylon), was removed to the Abbey of Rocester. The Chantry thns removed was on Watling Street (super regiam stratam de Watlyng Strete), and not near Charnwood.—Holy-well Haw is, however, mentioned in the Garendon Register as being *juxtà veterem viam*; called also *via Regia*.—(See p. 18, and the notes on p. 189.)

In 1330 it appears by a precept from King Edward III. to the Sheriff of the county, that the Abbot of Leicester had purchased, in 1329, from Henry, Lord Beaumont, a certain parcel of wood in Holy-well Haw, for which the Abbot had paid £28. to the said Lord before his having entered into rebellion: and the same having been seized by the King on account of the attainder, the Sheriff was directed to restore it to the Abbot.

As in the case of the neighbouring Hermitage of Alderman Haw, it is not ascertained at what period this Hermitage ceased to have any resident Monks; it appears, however, from the Garendon Register, that it had long before the Dissolution been used as a Vaceary.

The Hermitage is now a part of the possessions of Charles March Phillipps, Esq. A Gothic doorway and a few other portions of ancient building appear to be remains of the original fabric. The Holy-well still sends forth its most pellucid waters as in the days when it was regarded as a Bethesda. The whole scene is singularly quiet and beautiful; Spenser's lines, indeed, most accurately describe it.

I gleaned the leading parts of the following Legend of Holy Well from an aged person at Whitwick, where the name of Comyn, as connected with the ancient Castle of that place, "a matter of five hundred years ago," is still mentioned. The popular idea seems to be, that the Comyns were great giants. One of them, said my informant, attempted to carry off one of the Ladies of Groby Castle, who left that place for security, intending to take sanctuary at Grace Dieu. Going, however, by a circuitous route, to avoid Charley and Whitwick, she was benighted, and would have perished in the Outwoods, but for one of the Monks of the Holy Well. The anachronisms and violations of history occurring in the narrative need not be pointed out to the intelligent reader. There is, however, as observed below, some truth mixed up with what is evidently fabulous. The tradition may, in fact, have arisen from Douglas's carrying off Eleanor Ferrars.—(See under Groby and Charley.)

I may be permitted here to express a hope that the "legendary lore" with which I have occasionally endeavoured to relieve these pages, may not, in any way, lead the reader to attach less importance to statements professedly historical. It seemed hardly right, indeed, that the topographer should leave wholly unnoticed all matter of a merely traditionary nature; partly because of the portion of truth frequently mingled with these tales, and partly because they may be considered as somewhat characteristic of the Forest peasantry.

A popular writer, Mr. Featherstone, in his "Legends of Leicester," has introduced, with good effect, some of the traditions of Charnwood, and a series of "Legends of the Forest" formed the leading Chapters of the London Magazine in 1825,* but those which are given in these pages have not before appeared in print.

* One of these, entitled "The Archer of Ulvescroft," was obligingly forwarded to me by a stranger (I presume the author), through the hands of Mr. Moore. It is so interesting, that nothing but *its having previously been published* could justify my omitting it.

LEGEND OF THE HOLY WELL.

The oaks of the Forest were Autumn-tinged,
 And the winds were at sport with their leaves,
 When a Maiden traversed the rugged rocks
 That frown over WOODHOUSE EAVES.
 The rain fell fast—she heeded it not—
 Though no hut or home appears:
 She scarcely knew if the falling drops
 Were rain-drops or her tears.
 Onward she hid through the OUTWOODS dark—
 (And the OUTWOODS were darker then:)
 She feared not the Forest's deep'ning gloom—
 She feared unholy men.
 Lord Comyn's scouts were in close pursuit,
 For Lord Comyn the Maid had seen,
 And had marked her mother's only child
 For his paramour, I ween.
 A whistle, a whoop, from the BUYK HILLS' side,
 Told Agnes her foes were nigh:
 And, screened by the cleft of an aged oak,
 She heard quick steps pass by.
 Dark and dread fell that Autumn night:
 The wind-gusts fitful blew:
 The thunder rattled:—the lightning's glare
 Showed BEACON'S crags to view.
 The thunder neared—the lightning played
 Around that sheltering oak;
 But Agnes, of men, not God afraid,
 Shrank not at the lightning's stroke!
 The thunder passed—the silvery moon
 Burst forth from her cave of cloud,
 And showed in the glen "red Comyn's" men,
 And she breathed a prayer aloud:—
 "Maiden mother of God! look down—
 List to a maiden's prayer:
 Keep undefiled my mother's sole child—
 The spotless are thy care." * * * * *

The sun had not glistened on Beacon Hill
 Ere the Hermit of Holy Well
 Went forth to pray, as his wont each day,
 At the Cross in Fayre-oke dell.
 Ten steps had he gone from the green grassy mound
 Still hemming the Holy Well Haw,
 When, stretched on the grass—by the path he must pass—
 A statue-like form he saw!
 He crossed himself once, he crossed himself twice,
 And he knelt by the corse in prayer:
 "Jesu Maria! cold as ice—
 Cold—cold—but still how fair!"

The Hermit upraised the stiffened form,
 And he bore to the Holy Well:
 Three Paters or more he muttered o'er,
 And he filled his scallop shell.
 He sprinkled the lymph on the Maiden's face,
 And he knelt and he prayed at her side—
 Not a minute's space had he gazed on her face
 Ere signs of life he spied. * * * * *

Spring had invested the CHARNWOOD oaks
 With their robe of glist'ning green,
 When on palfreys borne, one smiling morn,
 At the Holy Well Haw were seen
 A youth and a Lady, passing fair,
 Who asked for the scallop shell:
 A sparkling draught each freely quaffed,
 And they blessed the Holy Well.
 They blessed that Well, and they fervently blessed
 The holy Hermit too;
 To that and to him they filled to the brim
 The scallop, and drank anew.
 "Thanks, Father! thanks!—To this Well and thee,"
 Said the youth, "but to Heav'n most,
 I owe the life of the fairest wife
 That CHARNWOOD'S bounds can boast.
 The blushing bride thou seest at my side,
 (Three hours ago made mine)
 Is she who from death was restored to breath
 By Heav'n's own hand and thine.
 The Prior of ULVESCROFT made us one,
 And we hastened here to tell
 How much we owe to kind Heav'n and thee,
 For the gift of the Holy Well.
 In proof of which—to the Holy Well Haw
 I give, as a votive gift,
 From year to year three fallow deer,
 And the right of the Challenge drift.
 I give, besides, of land two hides,
 To be marked from the Breendon Brand:
 To be held while men draw from the Well in this Haw
 A draught with the hollow hand."
 The Hermit knelt, and the Hermit rose,
 And breathed "Benedicite"—
 "And tell me," he said, with a hand on each head,
 "What Heav'n-sent pair I see?"
 "This is the lost de Ferrars' child,
 Who dwelt at the Steward's Hay;
 And, Father, my name—yet unknown to fame—
 Is simply EDWARD GREY."

CONCLUSION.

With Holy Well Haw the reader is brought to the point from which the circuit of the Forest, adopted in the Parochial History, commenced; and also to the close of the body of the work; and however distrustful of the reception of my own portion of these labours, I can refer him to the contributions of those gentlemen with whom it is my pride to have my name associated, in the full confidence that the APPENDIX will be regarded as a valuable accession to the sciences of which it treats.

Should the historical part of the book be considered too diffuse on some points, and too barren on others, it must be borne in mind that the records of the Forest, *as a Forest*, are, unfortunately, extremely scanty and unsatisfactory; while it may fearlessly be asserted, that no county district of equal extent has, connected with it, such an extraordinary array of names of high historical interest. This consideration will at once account for the seemingly undue preponderance of biographical matter. Indeed, I could scarcely, with clearness, have been less prolix on some of the remarkable characters introduced: particularly on

“her most gentle—most unfortunate:
Crowned but to die—who in her chamber sate
Musing with PLATO, though the horn was blown
And every ear and every heart was won,
And all, in green array, were chasing down the sun!”

It would have been gratifying to be able to adduce historical proof of some points which now rest on conjecture or tradition—but my inability to do this did not appear to warrant the suppression of all matter of this nature.

The reader will have been enabled, it is hoped, to draw from the copious details presented to him, a tolerably correct idea of the Forest, both in remote and recent times. To those acquainted with the locality it will have required but little exertion of the imagination to picture what it must have been in the times when it was a part of the Great Forest of Arden: or in those times when our Kings, and the Earls of Chester and Leicester, the Ferrars, the Comyns, the Beaumonts, the Hastings, and the Greys, found in its recesses some compensation for the absence of the one sole more exciting scene—the battle field.

The gradual decay of the sylvan honours of the Forest will have been gleaned from the whole work, rather than from any separate chapter.

F I N I S.

HOLY WELL HALL.



APPENDIX.

GEOLOGY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

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THE centre of England is occupied by a wide and fertile plain, stretching through the counties of Nottingham, Leicester, South Derby, Warwick, Worcester, Stafford, North Shropshire, and Cheshire. This plain appears such only when viewed on a large scale; its surface is not absolutely flat, but slightly undulated into long sweeping ridges and gentle slopes, never rising or falling much from a certain mean level, and presenting, when viewed from a moderate height, a plain horizon. Rising from this plain are several detached ranges or clusters of small hills or elevated grounds: of these the hills around Dudley, those south of Atherton, and Charnwood Forest, are the most remarkable. Charnwood Forest lies between the three towns of Leicester, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Loughborough. It comprises a cluster of hills which rise boldly, although to no great elevation, above the surrounding country, having well-marked features, not only contrasting it with the adjacent plain, but differing one from the other. We should, without any previous knowledge of its structure, distinguish the rounded and massive forms of its sienitic hills, from the lighter and more delicate outline of the slates, and these from the rough and craggy ridges bristling with rocks of the porphyries and greenstones. Its aspect, therefore, alone, is sufficient to assure the geologist that he will find something in it of interest, since he knows that every feature and outline of the surface of the earth, depends either on the nature of the rock within or the conditions under which it has been placed, both of which things it is his object and hope to discover. To the geological student, indeed, especially to one who has never studied the lower or older rocks, the district of Charnwood Forest offers peculiar advantages; he here gets, within a small space, a sufficient number of the most striking characters of the slate rocks and their associates, neatly exposed and arranged, without being overwhelmed by the accumulated difficulties and novelties of the larger and loftier districts of Wales, Cumberland, or Cornwall.

The physical geography of Charnwood Forest is seen by a glance at the ordnance map of the district; it consists of some ranges of low hills, running nearly N. N. W. and S. S. E., and some detached or projecting masses. The two highest points are Bardon Hill and Beacon Hill, each of which rises about eight hundred and fifty feet above the sea, and about seven hundred above the level of the Soar, at Leicester. The general level of the surrounding country is about two hundred feet above the Soar; so that on approaching the boundaries of the Forest, the sensible height of its two highest points is about five hundred feet. This will not apply, however, to Bardon Hill, as viewed from the Ashby-de-la-Zouch side; the coal field of that neighbourhood is also above the general level of the surrounding country, and Bardon Hill only rises three hundred and fifty feet above the level of the railway at Snibston.

Charnwood Forest forms a small centre of drainage, the brooks running every way from it; all of them, however, fall into the Soar, with the exception of those on the flanks of Bardon Hill, which run into the Sence, and thence into the Anker. As both the Anker and the Sence, however, flow into the Trent, the whole must be included within the basin of drainage of that river.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FORMATIONS.

The geological structure of the district is rather more complicated, and presents greater variety, than might be expected from its small extent. It comprehends the following formations:—

AQUEOUS ROCKS.

1. Lias.
2. New red sandstone.
3. Coal measures.
4. Mountain limestone.
5. Slate rocks.

IGNEOUS ROCKS.

1. Sienite.
2. Porphyry, greenstone, and their varieties.

AQUEOUS ROCKS.

1. *Lias*.—Of this large and important formation, so conspicuous a feature in the geology of England, the base or lowest part only is seen in our district; it consists of alternations of thin beds of light-coloured limestone, with beds of dark blue laminated clay, or shale. The following sections of quarries at Barrow-upon-Soar, and the village of Hoton, will give a good idea of its character:—

| HOTON. | | BARROW. | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | <i>in.</i> | <i>ft. in.</i> | <i>ft. in.</i> |
| 1. Raffle | $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Limestone} \dots 8 \\ \text{Shale} \dots 10 \\ \text{Limestone} \dots 8 \end{array} \right\}$ | 2 2 | 1. Shale 5 0 |
| 2. Shale | | 6 0 | 2. Rummels, limestone 1 0 |
| 3. Top floor, limestone | | 0 6 | 3. Dark shale 4 0 |
| 4. Shale | | 4 0 | 4. Limestone 0 6 |
| 5. Hurs, coarse limestone | | 0 10 | 5. Shale 1 0 |
| 6. Shale | | 3 0 | 6. Limestone 0 8 |
| 7. Pockey, granular limestone | | 0 8 | 7. Shale 1 2 |
| 8. Shale | | 0 2 | 8. Limestone 0 5 |
| 9. Little floor, limestone | | 0 3 | 9. Shale 1 6 |
| 10. Shale | | 1 6 | 10. Limestone 0 9 |
| 11. Bottom floor, bluestone, flintstone, blue limestone | | 1 6 | 11. Shale 4 0 |
| | | <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> | 12. Limestone 0 6 |
| | | 20 7 | 13. Shale 7 0 |
| | | | 14. White hurls, limestone 1 0 |
| | | | <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> |
| | | | 28 6 |

It will be perceived that these sections, while preserving a general resemblance, have not an absolute uniformity. The beds of limestone thin out and come in again in various directions, so as to vary both in number and thickness, and in the thickness of the beds of shale between them. The limestone of Barrow is celebrated for its quality of setting under water, and is largely exported. It is also well known for the abundance and beauty of the fossil fish and ichthyosauri which have

been found in it, a collection of which is generally kept on sale by Mr. Lee, of that place. Various other points along the line of the limestones are likewise rich in organic remains (more especially Cortlingstock, I believe), and, were they examined by persons residing on the spot, would no doubt richly repay their trouble.

2. *New red sandstone*.—Immediately below the lias are found beds of red marl, generally spotted and streaked with white, or pale green. These marls frequently contain beds of soft sandstone, of the same colours, and some beds of a conglomerate of small pebbles. In the upper parts, however, the beds are almost entirely marl; and at a probable depth of about one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet below the lias, a great quantity of gypsum is found. This gypsum is nearly continuous, if not quite, from Leicester, by Syston, to Burton Bandals, near Loughborough; it occurs generally in the state of a compact white amorphous sulphate of lime, lying in one or two thick beds. In the marls above and below these beds are found many large nodular blocks of gypsum, and almost innumerable veins traversing the beds in every direction, and being frequently fibrous and crystalline. Some distance below the gypsum the marls become more scarce, and give place to the sandstones, which gradually pass down into a mass of light greenish brown sandstone, that forms the Dane Hills, near Leicester. Below this are more red sandstones and conglomerates, with occasional beds of marl. How far the upper portion of the new red sandstone of England can ever be divided according to the analogies of the formation in Germany is at present uncertain, and the neighbourhood of Charnwood Forest does not seem likely to throw light on the question; for our purposes, at all events, it is best to consider it as one continuous and coherent mass, the upper part of which is the most abundant in clay, the lower the most arenaceous. The thickness of the whole formation is an important practical question, which it will be best to consider hereafter.

3. *Coal measures*.—This important and valuable formation consists of an alternation of indurated clays and sandstones with beds of coal. The character of these three materials continually varies. The argillaceous parts are sometimes in the state of soft, unctuous potter's clay, sometimes sandy and laminated, when they are called shale, sometimes hard and compact, when they are denominated "clunch," or "bind," sometimes light-coloured, or even white, and sometimes black, and sufficiently bituminous to burn sluggishly. They often contain balls, or thin seams of ironstone, consisting principally of carbonate of iron. The sandstones vary from a soft earthy rock to a hard gritstone, composed of quartz pebbles; and the coals, from a drossy bituminous shale, called batt, to soft, tender, or sulphureous coal, hard bright stone coal of good quality, or in some instances, even cannel coal. The argillaceous portions, principally indurated clay, are by far the most abundant material; next in abundance come the sandstones; and at different distances between the alternating beds of these two, lie the thin seams of coal. In the deep sinking, at Moira colliery, a detailed section of which is given by Mr. Mammatt, in his "Geological Facts of the Ashby Coal Field," the coal measures were pierced by a shaft to the depth of one thousand and forty feet, and by boring, about two hundred and fifty feet farther. The following is an analysis of the section:—The total number of beds, of all substances, passed through in one thousand and eleven feet, is four hundred. Of these, forty-one are coal, many very thin; about twenty sandstone, chiefly thick; and the rest clay, shale, clunch, or bind, with occasional thin seams of ironstone. Of the beds of coal, the main coal has a thickness of fourteen feet; another bed has a thickness of four or five feet; thirteen beds have a thickness of two or three feet; eleven are only from one to nine inches in thickness, and the remainder are between one and two feet. Below the main coal five beds have been bored through, one of which was six feet thick and the rest about

three: making a total number of forty-six beds of coal, with an aggregate thickness of one hundred feet. The hard sandstones are some of them twenty or thirty feet thick, but are very variable in extent, being much more abundant in some places than others; their aggregate thickness in the deep sinking, before mentioned, being not more than one hundred and fifty feet. We thus get a thickness of one thousand feet of argillaceous matter, with about one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet of arenaceous beds, distributed about it in irregular cakes and patches, and one hundred feet of carbonaceous matter, in thin and regular seams. It is deserving of notice, that the beds of coal, although they alter their thickness and quality in different localities, are yet much more persistent than the shales, and these than the sandstones; moreover, the irregularities in the beds of coal do not seem to have originated in themselves, but to have been produced in them by irregularities in the deposition of the other materials. Thus, a bed of coal three or four feet thick in one place, is split up in another into two or three beds, of one or two feet in thickness, by the intervention of bands of shale, which, though extremely thin at first, insensibly thicken till they remove the beds of coal to considerable distances apart, or even obliterate one or other of them entirely. Again, the difference in the thickness of the beds of coal is frequently apparent rather than real; as the main, or fourteen feet coal, is in fact made up of several beds, which rest one on the other, without the intervention of shale or sandstone. All these circumstances are highly instructive, when we come to speculate on the origin of the coal measures. The shales and sandstones contain a great abundance of fragments of various plants; of these, Mr. Mammatt gives nearly a hundred plates in his work before mentioned: to which, and to Lindley and Hutton's Fossil Flora, the reader is referred for their descriptions. Those figured by Mr. Mammatt are chiefly *stigmaria*, *sigillaria*, *calamites*, *lepidodendron*, and ferns.

4. *Mountain limestone*.—The mountain limestone of this district puts on very various aspects, differing both from the general character of the mountain limestone of England, and from itself, in different quarries. It is sometimes a hard blue limestone, nearly pure carbonate of lime, in thick regular beds; sometimes the beds are separated by partings of shale, and the limestone becomes nodular and concretionary. Again, it contains in some places so much carbonate of magnesia, as to become a yellow subcrystalline magnesian limestone; and lastly, in Graeciedu quarries, it in some places loses altogether the character of a limestone, and becomes a blotchy red and yellow sandy and indurated marl, called by the quarrymen "dirt." This variable character joins with other circumstances to show the debased condition of the formation, that it is here approaching its original boundary, and on the point of disappearing altogether; it is still, however, the representative of the true mountain limestone, and contains the *crinoidea*, *producta*, *enonophalus*, and various fossils of that formation, and of no other. Its appearing in the state of magnesian limestone is by no means an uncommon occurrence, since even in the heart of Derbyshire, and in Yorkshire, large beds of magnesian limestone are found, forming an integral portion of the mountain limestone, and surrounded by beds composed only of carbonate of lime. Wherever this is the case, the fossils are almost always found in the state of casts, as they appear at Breedon; the shell having disappeared, and its external and internal form alone remaining in the rock.

5. *The slate rocks*.—To this formation we forbear applying any particular term; because, although from its mineral character it appears analogous to the Cambrian rocks of Professor Sedgwick, we have no other evidence by which to class it. In the present state of geological science, when our ideas regarding the older rocks have undergone such a revolution, and our knowledge of them has so much increased—when Cornwall, for instance, once considered the only "primitive" district of England, is found to contain nothing older than the old red sandstone, it would be highly

injudicious to depend on mere mineral character as conclusive as to the age of the slates of Charnwood. No organic remains have as yet been discovered in them, and their entire isolation from their congeners, precludes our having recourse to the best of all evidence, that of superposition; it is therefore uncertain whether they belong to the Devonian, Silurian, or Cambrian systems, the probability only being in favour of the latter.

The slate rocks of Charnwood vary from a coarse greywacke conglomerate to fine-grained roofing slate. The rock called greywacke consists of a dark-coloured highly indurated clay, containing small pebbles or fragments of crystalline rocks, firmly aggregated together. It is evidently a mechanically-formed rock, the result of the wearing down of previously-existing crystalline rocks by the action of water, and the deposition of the debris or fragments in that fluid. In the production of the finer-grained slates, the same process has gone on to a greater extent; the particles having been worn down into the finest mud before they were finally deposited. It is perfectly possible, and highly probable, that volcanic eruptions may have taken place in the bed of the seas in which the slates were formed, and their accumulation have been thus assisted in two ways; namely, by the actual ejection of volcanic dust and ashes and lava into the water, and the rending and shattering of the older rocks making them an easier prey to the action of the currents. But whatever may have been the source from which the materials were derived, we see that their original arrangement and deposition was a purely mechanical process; the particles being strewn out in regular layers, one above the other, according to their relative specific gravities and other circumstances. This is often perceptible even in hand specimens of slate rock. We can see bands of different texture traversing the rock, alternately with and passing into one another by imperceptible gradations, but always preserving the same straight lines and the same relative distances, and being evidently the result of the tranquil deposition in water of coarse particles at one time and fine at another, with every gradation between the two. This is just what we observe in most stratified rocks, and it generally forms the grain or bedding of the rock along which it splits most easily, precisely from the circumstance of there being less mutual coherence in the particles deposited at different times, and forming different layers, however short the interval between each, than in those deposited at the same time, which form one layer. In slate rocks, however, we are struck by the circumstance that, although the grain of the rock and the lines of deposition are distinctly visible, there is no longer any tendency to split in their direction; but on the contrary, in some other, transverse, and often at right angles to them. This tendency to split is called "cleavage," and is entirely independent of the original bedding and structure of the rock; sometimes coinciding with the stratification, sometimes as widely as possible apart from it. Not only is it independent of the stratification of the rocks, but of their position, preserving often the same angle with the horizon and bearing of the compass through large districts and great mountain masses, in which the beds incline at various angles and in various directions; sometimes, on the contrary, changing its angle or bearing, while that of the beds remains the same. It is most strikingly developed in the finest-grained beds, which can be split along its direction, sometimes to almost any degree of thinness, while the coarse-grained beds split indeed only in that direction but rudely and roughly, forming coarse slabs. In some of the quarries in which fine slate is got, it is almost impossible to detect the original bedding of the rock, except by observing the light-coloured marks or bands which may be seen on an old and weathered face of the quarry, and which are sometimes so faint as to require particular lights to detect them. In other parts, where the variations in texture are more marked, alternations of variously-coloured stripes of purple, blue, green, or white, frequently not more than an inch wide, and perfectly parallel to each other, are perceptible at first sight, and at considerable distances; these are tech-

nically called "the stripe," and always give the true bedding and dip of the rock, and are often discernible on weathered surfaces, even through the coat of lichens with which they are covered. Associated with the regular greywacke and clay slate of Charnwood Forest, we have flinty slate, a hard, smooth, fine-grained rock, containing much silicious earth, ringing with a metallic sound, and rarely cleavable into thin slate; and also quartz rock, a pale grey or yellowish brown, finely granular rock, rarely if ever traversed by a true cleavage, but split up in various directions, by minute joints, and breaking into rude cubes or prisms, having a deep red external surface.

IGNEOUS ROCKS.

1. *Sienite*.—This rock consists of a congeries of imperfectly developed crystals of quartz and feldspar, with or without hornblende, mutually imbedded in and intertangled with one another. It is usually of a pink or reddish brown colour, from the colour of the feldspar, but it assumes many hues and varieties both of texture and other characters. It contains, occasionally, a few specks of mica, when the rock becomes a true granite.

2. *Porphyry*.—If one of the mineral constituents of sienite were to remain compact or uncrystallised, while crystals of the other were disseminated about it, the rock would be called a porphyry. Porphyry is a term applied to any rock which contains disseminated crystals in a compact base, the kind of porphyry being determined by the nature of the base. When the disseminated crystals are rounded, or almond shaped, and seem as if they had been formed in cavities or cells of the base, the rock is termed amygdaloid. When the mineral constituents form a congeries of small crystals, of an uniform colour and close aggregation, the rock is called greenstone; and when the crystalline structure is so fine as to be invisible to the naked eye, and the rock appears compact, it is called trap, or basalt. All these varieties, and many intermediate ones, frequently occur in the same district of rocks, and a perfect passage might be traced in different parts of Charnwood Forest, from compact trap into sienite. Frequently, the only way to distinguish a crystalline rock from a granular slate rock, or greywacke, is carefully to examine a fresh fracture with a pocket magnifying-glass, in order to see whether the crystalline particles have sharp edges, and are in their original state of close intertangled aggregation, or with rounded edges, like grains of sand rolled and compacted together. Sometimes, however, it is impossible to decide what to call the rock, more especially in detached specimens; for if a mechanically-formed granular rock be, after deposition, subjected to heat, the change produced upon it may vary in every possible manner, according to the degree of heat, and also according to its own constituent parts, and their different proportions and conditions, so that the same degree of heat may render certain portions of the same rock entirely crystalline without producing any such change on other portions. For all these difficulties the student must be prepared, and not suffer them to dishearten him, resting assured that use and practice will imperceptibly enable him to overcome them.

JOINTS.

There is one structure common to both igneous and aqueous rocks, which may be advantageously studied in Charnwood Forest: and that is, the jointing of the rocks. All rocks are more or less jointed or traversed by divisional planes, in various directions, by which they are naturally cut up, as it were, into blocks of greater or less size, according to circumstances. In stratified rocks there are generally two principal sets of joints perpendicular to the beds, and crossing each other at right angles; there are, however, often others in different directions, and they commonly

increase in number in proportion to the hardness and fineness of the rock. In igneous rocks they are very numerous, and often very regular, and they occur at all angles with the horizon, and frequently quite horizontal; they give to the sienites very often the appearance of regular bedding for considerable distances, and in the slate rocks are very deceptive, as it is often impossible to distinguish them from the beds without the aid of the stripe or other indications. The coal is traversed by a peculiar jointing, the faces of which are called by the workmen "slynes;" these preserve a remarkable regularity in their bearing by compass over particular districts, as does also the more general system of joints in all rocks, as will be observed hereafter. The cause of this general-jointed structure is at present but imperfectly understood: it is, however, of the highest utility, as without it, it would be impossible to quarry any hard stone whatever.

RELATIONS AND LOCALITIES OF THE FORMATIONS.

Having thus given a slight sketch of the nature and characteristic circumstances of the materials which are to be found in Charnwood Forest, it remains to describe their several localities, and their actual and relative positions. We shall thus get an idea of the solid geometry,—of the internal anatomy, as it were, of the district,—and shall be able to entertain some speculations on the relative dates and modes of action of the causes by which the rocks have been formed and placed in their present positions.

If we take an ordnance map, or the map affixed to this work, and, commencing about a mile south of Sheepshed, just south of the old canal, draw a line through the following places, we shall describe a boundary that will nearly coincide with that of the old Forest, will be approximately that of the new red sandstone, and will enclose all the slate rocks of the district. Following the canal to its termination, near Forest Gate, the boundary pursues a waving line, sweeping outside the ridges and a little up the valleys, down to Woodhouse Eaves, Swithland slate quarries and Holgate Lodge; running close round Bradgate Park, it curves up the valley of Newtown Linford for some distance, returns through Sheet Hedges Wood, sweeps round the sienite of Groby and runs thence close to Markfield, turns up the valley between that place and Cliff Hill, thence by Horse-pool Grange, Stanton, and Battle-flat Gate, to Hugglescote; from this place it follows up the brook to Whitwick Waste, and thence down another brook to Whitwick, runs through the lower part of that village to the back of Gracedieu, passes between the slate and the limestone to the corner of the turnpike-road, and sweeps outside the little ridge of Ringan Hill, to Blackbrook. Here the boundary of the new red sandstone becomes irregular, and some portion of it runs up the valley of Blackbrook into the very heart of the Forest; the slate, however, again appears in White Horse Wood, outside of which lies the new red sandstone, which continues thence along the canal to the point where we first took it up.

On the southern part of the district thus circumscribed are four patches of sienite; namely, Cliff Hill, Markfield Knoll, Groby, and one at the lower end of Bradgate Park. On the northern side, the ridge called Ringan Hill and the neighbourhood of the old reservoir, a tract almost a mile long and half a mile wide, is composed of quartz rock, the remainder of the enclosed district consists of slate rocks and porphyries.

A large outlying lump of sienite is found at Mountsorrel, which extends from that village to Kinchley Hill, and from Rothley to the immediate vicinity of Quorndon. Outside the boundaries thus described, the new red sandstone stretches away in every direction, till it passes on the east beneath the Lias, and on the north-west is broken through by some patches of mountain

limestone and the coal field of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. We will first examine the rocks enclosed within this boundary, then briefly notice the coal field and its associated rocks, and afterwards examine the relations of the overlying red marls and sandstones.

In traversing the northern part of Charnwood Forest, we should be struck by one of its principal features, a beautiful and fertile valley, proceeding each way from a central point called Bawdon Castle, and dividing the Forest into two equal portions. One of these valleys runs south-east, and contains the picturesque ruins of Ulverscroft Abbey; the other, and the most marked and decided valley, runs north-west, between Ives Head and High Sharpley, and contains the new Church called the Oaks Church. A beautiful prospect is afforded from the heart of the Forest over the country to the north-west, Brendon Hill being a conspicuous object in the middle distance, and the faintly-marked hills of Derbyshire closing the horizon. If we draw a slightly curved line from White Horse Wood along the north-east side of this latter valley, close under Ives Head, by Bawdon Lodge, down the little valley called Long Dale to Holgate Lodge, we shall trace an important geological feature, the anticlinal line, namely, of the slate rocks of Charnwood Forest. An anticlinal line means that line from which the beds "dip" or *decline* on either hand. The ridge of the roof of a house may be said to be an anticlinal line with regard to the slates that cover it. In nature, however, an anticlinal line does not always form a ridge, but is often marked by a valley, which is what we should expect, if we recollect that it is the line along which previously horizontal beds have been reared into an inclined position by some powerful force; and that, therefore, it is likely that along that line the beds must frequently have been broken through, and great destruction been caused, more especially if they still remained under water, and were exposed to its currents. From this line in Charnwood Forest the beds dip on either hand: those on the north-east being inclined to the north-east, those on the south-west plunging towards the south-west.*—(See sections No. 1 and 2.)

In examining the facts on which this assertion is founded, we will commence on the northern side, and make the circuit of the Forest, giving the details of each remarkable spot as a guide to the student, and as enabling him to compare his observations with our own.—A mile and a half south of the village of Sheepshed is a large and conspicuous quarry, in a high hill called Moorley Hill. This is a very instructive spot; the stone is a coarse-grained greywacke, generally of a grey colour, but marked with a pale red and white "stripe" on the weathered surfaces, which is peculiarly distinct and cannot be mistaken. This stripe indicates the bedding of the rock, which is found to dip at an angle of thirty-five degrees true north-east.† The cleavage is but imperfectly developed, but it is nearly perpendicular to the beds. Three regular systems of joints are observable, besides many irregular ones. The lines of bearing of these are—

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Joint A. | N. 24° E. | Perpendicular. |
| Joint B. | North. | Ditto. |
| Joint C. | N. 80° W. | Ditto. |

A small quarry may be found in a hill about a quarter of a mile west of this, close to some brick-yards, in which the rock is similar but of a coarser grain, and where the beds dip at an angle of

* This anticlinal line was first traced by Professor Sedgwick, from whose personal instructions delivered on the spot we derive great part of our knowledge of this district.

† The bearings in this article will always be true, an allowance of twenty-four degrees having been made for the variation of the compass.

seventy degrees to a point fifteen degrees north of true east. This must be in the immediate neighbourhood of the anticlinal line, as near Finny Hill Lodge the dip is south-west, and just opposite the west end of White Horse Wood a little quarry on the road side exposes a quartzose rock, which from some indications appears also to dip south-west, but enough of it was not exposed to make the observation certain.—Returning along the boundary of the slate rocks towards the east we find, on a hill called Nanpantan, a small quarry which shows a dip of forty-five degrees true north-east: and a little below, at Forest Gate, there are two small quarries, one on each side of the road, which, taken together, are very instructive. On the north side of the road a shallow cutting in a compact slate rock is observed, with a very faint and imperfectly-developed cleavage, but greatly cut up by joints in many directions. At first sight the stratification is imperceptible, and one of the sets of joints would be likely to be taken for the bedding in one part of the quarry, were it not traversed by another set of joints which is equally like bedding in another part of the quarry. A careful examination of the face of the rock discloses a few faint streaks of colour here and there, scarcely a quarter of an inch wide and rather irregular; they result, however, from difference of texture, and represent the true stratification of the rock. They dip north-east at an angle of eighty-five degrees, and if any doubts should remain of their being true marks of stratification, it would be dispelled by visiting the quarry on the other side of the road, where the rock is seen to become more and more distinctly marked till it exhibits a clear, well-characterised stripe, with precisely the same inclination, namely, north-east, at eighty-five degrees. The joints are not so much inclined to the horizon as the beds, and do not preserve a very marked regularity. Over the rough edges of the slate beds in the first quarry lies a thickness of six or eight feet of red marls and shaly sandstones, belonging to the new red sandstone formation, in a perfectly horizontal and undisturbed position. Diagram No. 1 represents these facts.—Passing up the valley of the brook to the Buck Hills, we find the Little Buck Hills to consist of slate, dipping north-east, at an angle of forty-five degrees, but at the foot of the Great Buck Hill, near the brook, is a small quarry of a true close-grained greenstone, which, no doubt, is a portion of a larger mass in the body of the hill.

The Whittle Hills are composed of a compact greenish grey flinty slate, of a very close and smooth texture, split up near the surface by a vast number of fine joints into small pieces forming rude prisms. This rock is extracted in small shallow excavations, and the pieces are shaped and polished and converted into hones, or whittles, as they are locally called. Hence the name of the hills. A very considerable trade is carried on by the few cottagers in the neighbourhood, most of the fine hones used in the Midland Counties at least, if not elsewhere, being derived from this spot. The beds of the Whittle Hills dip nearly north-east, at about forty-five degrees.

In the rocks at the summit of Beacon Hill the several characters of the slate are well expressed. The stripe is clear, and the surfaces of the beds are often exhibited, and are strictly parallel to it. They dip twenty degrees north of east, at an angle of forty degrees. The cleavage is perpendicular to the horizon, and strikes twenty degrees south of east.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Joints.—A. | N. 20° W. | Perpendicular. |
| B. | N. 20° E. | Ditto. |
| C. | N. 70° W. | Ditto. |
| D. | N. 70° E. | Irregular. |

In Broombriggs and Sly Hills, the continuation of the ridge of the Beacon, the slate is rather

of a coarser grain than that of the Beacon, the dip is much the same, but the principal joints vary, being

- A. N. 5° W. Perpendicular.
 B. N. 85° E. Ditto.

Or nearly true north and south and east and west.

Near the church at Woodhouse Eaves the dip of the rock is sixty degrees, east twenty-five degrees north; the cleavage dips north-east, at eighty degrees, its strike being exactly east thirty-five degrees south. The joints, though very numerous, are not sufficiently symmetrical to be worth measuring.

At Swithland the slate rock acquires a much finer grain than in the northern parts of the Forest, and consequently has a much better and more regular cleavage; it becomes, therefore, fine roofing slate, and is largely quarried for that purpose. There are three quarries near the road, only one of which is now worked. The stripe is generally faint, but on some of the old weathered faces of the quarries it may be detected, and thus the lines of bedding be distinguished from the joints. The beds dip east thirty degrees north, at about forty degrees. The cleavage is nearly perpendicular to the horizon, and strikes east twenty-seven degrees south.

- Joints.—A. Nearly N. and S. Perpendicular.
 B. N.N.W. Ditto.

Flakes of chlorite may frequently be detected on the surfaces of the cleavage planes.

Beds of red marl rest in the hollows and wrap round the peaks of the slate rocks, and in one place the slate was followed under the red marl, which was left in a low arch as a roof, till a portion fell and caused the death of a man. These beds will be mentioned more particularly when we come to consider the relations of the new red sandstone to the Forest rocks.

There is another large slate quarry* in Swithland wood, where the dip of the rock is nearly due east, the cleavage striking north fifteen degrees east, and dipping at an angle of seventy-two degrees. We arrive here near the extremity of the anticlinal line, where the rocks have not been so violently rent asunder, and where they accordingly begin to bend round and arch over, and the two sides to coalesce. Accordingly, having arrived at Old John Hill, although we have undoubtedly crossed the anticlinal line, we find the dip of the rocks to be south instead of south-west, while the last-mentioned pit in Swithland wood is east instead of north-east. No doubt, at some intermediate point, either at the surface or beneath the covering of new red sandstone on the east, the dip would be found south-east, and thus a termination of the anticlinal line arrived at in this direction. However that may be, the slate on the summit of Old John dips sixty degrees nearly due south, the cleavage being nearly perpendicular and striking with the strike of the beds, or nearly east and west. About one-third of the way down the hill, blocks of sienite are met with, and near the old pool on the south edge of Bradgate Park, the rock is found entirely to consist of sienite, which occupies a space of about a quarter of a mile across. The junction of the slate and sienite is not exposed. About a mile and a half south of this, at the village of Groby, another

* The slates, when quarried and split and trimmed, are divided into large slates and small slates. All those whose surface exceeds one hundred square inches are called large, those below that size being called small. The large slates sell for 2s. 6d. a score, the small for 2s. 6d. per hundred, reckoning the long hundred, or six score. The men's wages vary from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day, but their work is much cut up now by the Welsh slates being brought so near them as to impede the sale.

large mass of sienite is found, half a mile across, forming a low dome, surrounded on one side by new red sandstone, and on the other by slate rocks, as is supposed. It is largely quarried in the centre, near the village, but there is no exposure near its junction with the slate rocks. It is a red coarse-grained sienite, very hard and durable. It is traversed by many joints in various directions; occasionally a set of these will be so symmetrical, as at first sight to give the rock the exact appearance of stratification for a considerable distance; when viewed on the large scale, however, this symmetry disappears, and the rock, when examined closely, has no grain or appearance of lamination. At one corner of the large quarry a portion of new red sandstone may be seen resting horizontally on the sienite in an undisturbed position.

Between Groby and Markfield, in a field on the left hand side of the road is a slate quarry, from which fine roofing slate is extracted. The beds dip south-west, at an angle of thirty degrees. The cleavage is perpendicular, and strikes west fifteen degrees north. One symmetrical set of joints strikes north fifteen degrees east, and is perpendicular to the horizon, while another, having the same strike, is only inclined at an angle of twenty degrees to the horizon, dipping westerly. The latter joint is called a slipper by the men, and when we examined the quarry it formed its floor. Beds of new red sandstone are seen in the side of the quarry, resting horizontally on the upturned slate. At the cross roads, opposite Markfield Knoll, is a small quarry, from which road stone is extracted. It consists of a greywacke slate, alternating with bands of a small greywacke conglomerate. Instructive hand specimens may be procured from this quarry, showing the variations in texture, or the alternations of fine and coarse-grained bands producing the stripe; these are traversed by the cleavage at an angle of about sixty degrees, the surface produced by the cleavage being smooth in the fine-grained portions and rough and uneven in the coarser parts.—The beds dip thirty-four degrees, south twenty-three degrees west. Cleavage strikes west thirty degrees north, perpendicular.

Joints.—A. N. 8° W. Perpendicular.
 B. Follows the dip of the beds.

A bed of trap rock is also seen in this quarry, apparently conformable to the slate rocks. This slate dips towards the sienite of Markfield Knoll, which is immediately adjacent, and shows no sign of any local disturbance. The sienite of the Knoll is of a greyer hue than that of Groby, but does not otherwise differ much from it. Separated from Markfield Knoll by a little valley is Cliff Hill, which consists of similar sienite. Both of them are round-backed eminences, with no exposure of rock around their bases, or in their immediate neighbourhood, to give any idea of the nature of their relations with the surrounding slate rocks. So far as negative evidence goes, however, there is no appearance of any local disturbance, which we should have supposed could hardly fail of appearing had the sienite been violently erupted through the slate. On the contrary, the next hill to Cliff Hill, called Billa Barrow Hill, exposes beds of slate at its summit which dip quite regularly south twenty-five degrees west, at an angle of thirty-five degrees. No further exposure of rock takes place along the boundary till we arrive at Hill Top, about a mile farther on. Here the slate rock, with a well-marked stripe, dips eighty degrees, south thirty degrees west. Proceeding towards the interior of the Forest we find those remarkable bosses of rock called the Rice Rocks, dipping nearly south-west, and the same inclination wherever a bit of slate rock is visible; as, for instance, at Copt Oak, where there is a small quarry at the back of the church, and another by the road side going to Charley Knoll.

Not far from Copt Oak is a broad-backed eminence, called Hammercliff. This is an interesting locality. Its summit consists of a red-coloured sienite, not unlike that of Markfield Knoll, but perhaps a little less crystalline. This sienite passes into a porphyry which mantles round it and forms the slope of the hill on every side. The porphyry has a dark grey base, with light-coloured disseminated crystals, and is somewhat different in appearance from the other porphyries of the neighbourhood. Like the other sienitic hills, Hammercliff is comparatively isolated, sloping regularly down on every side, and exposing no junction with the neighbouring slate rocks.

The wooded eminence of Bardon Hill is composed entirely of greenstone and porphyry, of a fine grain and intensely hard. Similar rocks probably extend a good way round the base of the hill, as there is a small deserted quarry in the fields, below the farm house called Robin Butts, the stone of which is compact earthy trap rock, having much the aspect of an altered rock, but presenting no appearance of lamination or bedding.

Green Hill, just north-east of Bardon, seems to be entirely composed of igneous rocks. The most abundant rock is a porphyry with a dark compact base and quadrangular crystals of feldspar. This, however, sometimes contains roundish amorphous crystals of quartz, having an internal structure imperfectly radiated, and being apparently formed in cells in the rock. Portions of this rock are a true amygdaloid, but when viewed *en masse* on their weathered surfaces have every appearance of a gritstone containing small quartz pebbles. Here and there crystals of quartz and feldspar are interangled in this rock, which in those spots assumes the characters of a sienite.

Along the ridge from Green Hill to High Towers all these varieties of true igneous rocks are found, with some others, mingled in inextricable confusion with various slate rocks. Hand specimens may be got, not three inches across, one side of which shall be a slate rock of the finest grain, and with no appearance of crystallization, while the other is a perfect congeries of small crystals, forming a complete greenstone. There is frequently a gradation also from one into the other, a few detached crystals first appearing in the slate, and gradually becoming more numerous on one side and disappearing on the other. Wherever a considerable mass of fine-grained slate rocks exists, it is invariably highly indurated and siliceous, becoming in some cases almost a hornstone. One mass of slate rock, of which a space three or four yards across was exposed, seemed to dip towards the south-east, so that it had probably suffered some local disturbance; in general, however, the beds of slate, wherever they were clearly shown, were found to preserve their regular inclination. One large projecting crag of rock, of which diagram No. 3 is a sketch, exhibited some beds of hard flinty slate, with an imperfect cleavage, nearly perpendicular to the horizon, and a clearly developed dark purple stripe, dipping about fifty degrees to the south-west; over this slate lay some thick masses of the amygdaloidal porphyry just described. The base line of the porphyry seemed perfectly conformable with the uppermost bed of the slate, being separated from it by a seam two or three inches thick of brittle splintery rock, apparently belonging to the slate.

The crags between Tin Meadow and Whitwick consist entirely of porphyry. This is a well-characterised rock, consisting of a dark green base, with disseminated crystals of light flesh-coloured feldspar, of a regular form, and here and there an amorphous crystal of quartz. At the back of the village of Whitwick are some quarries in a more close-grained porphyritic greenstone. High Cadman, High Sharpley, and Great Gun Hill, consist of porphyries like those already described, with interangled masses of slate rock more or less altered from their original condition. At the west end of High Sharpley is a mass of slate that has a chloritic aspect and texture, and might be called chlorite slate. It is impossible, however, to disentangle all the varieties, so as to give any

intelligible description of their characters and conditions. Similar rocks probably form the slope of the hills towards Gracedieu, but in the gorge of the old reservoir we are arrested by a total change in the mineral character of the rock. We have here, instead of slates, a well-characterised hard, fine-grained quartz rock, of a pale yellow and grey colour. It lies in regular beds, and frequently exhibits clear lines of lamination and a perfect "stripe." It no longer, however, splits readily along the lines of lamination, and though it has no regular cleavage it breaks in various directions into rude cubes and prisms. The larger blocks are traversed by a great number of fine hidden joints, crossing each other more or less nearly at right angles, and when struck with a hammer they break along these into pieces not larger than a man's fist. Although these joints are imperceptible at first sight, their faces, when opened, have a brick red colour which soils the fingers, resulting from the oxidization of the iron contained in the stone. This quartz rock does not differ in any essential particular from the quartz of Hart's Hill, near Atherstone, or of the Lickey Hill, near Broomsgrove. The beds dip west twenty degrees south, at an angle of sixty degrees: they occupy a space about a mile long by half a mile across, appearing on the road near the Turnpike Gate, and forming the little eminence there called Ringan Hill. Immediately north-east of the gorge of the old reservoir are some quarries of soft red sandstone, lying quite horizontally, and the cutting of the road between Blackbrook and White Horse Wood exposes several beds of light yellow and red sandstone, with beds of marl, all belonging to the new red sandstone, and this formation seems to stretch thence up the valley into the heart of the Forest.—The little quarry mentioned before as opposite the corner of White Horse Wood, shows a quartzose rock which seems like a passage from the regular compact quartz on the west into the greywacke slate on the east side of it.

The sienite of Mountsorrel does not differ essentially from that of Groby. It is very largely quarried near the village, and forms a very durable stone. Near the lane at the corner of Buddon Wood is an old quarry, in which a dyke of porphyritic greenstone is seen cutting through the sienite. It is perpendicular, twelve or fourteen feet across, runs due east and west, and has clear well-defined edges or walls separating it from the sienite. There is occasionally a small space between the trap and the sienite, filled with a soft crumbling rock, apparently the debris of the sienite. In one part, a large mass of the sienite was incorporated with the greenstone in the centre of the dyke. Another small quarry, at the south-west corner of the Common, called Simpson's Quarry, shows also a small trap dyke similar to the last, but not more than four feet wide. It is also perpendicular, and has the same bearing, namely, true east and west. The joints of the sienite did not always traverse the trap, which last had joints that did not affect the sienite.

We proceed now briefly to describe the position of the other rocks lying below the new red sandstone, namely, the mountain limestone and the coal measures. Close on the north-west corner of the Forest, at Gracedieu, is a series of old and recent lime quarries, of no great depth, in a patch of limestone, that may be, perhaps, from three to five hundred yards across. In the quarries at present worked there is an alternation of impure mottled concretionary stone, slightly calcareous, hard blue carbonate of lime, and yellow dolomite, or magnesian limestone. The beds are very irregular, thinning out rapidly, and none of them persistent through any great extent. They dip, on the whole, about north north-west, at an angle of twenty degrees. Over them, on their western side, lie several feet of soft red sandstone, perfectly horizontal, and belonging to the new red formation.

On a line running true north north-west from Gracedieu are four other patches of limestone, namely, at Osgathorpe, Barrow Hill, Breedon Cloud, and Breedon Hill. The two latter are far

the largest, and consist almost entirely of dolomite or magnesian limestone. Breedon Cloud, however, contains some beds of carbonate of lime. Its beds dip, on an average, about forty-eight degrees, west five degrees north, but are slightly bent and contorted in some places. Breedon Hill is traversed by a vast number of joints, which at first sight obscure the stratification. This, however, may be distinguished by lines of a cellular structure, which are rather numerous, and always parallel to the beds. The dip varies, in different parts of the hill, from forty-five degrees to seventy degrees, but is always towards the same point, namely, west fifteen degrees south. If the anticlinal line of the Forest be produced towards the north, it will run nearly, but not quite, parallel to the line along which these patches of limestone are arranged. The two lines would intersect each other a little beyond Breedon Hill, and would be farthest apart at Gracedieu. Now there can be no doubt that the inclined position, or the elevation of these portions of limestone, is due to the action of the same force which elevated Charnwood Forest. And we see that, in proportion as the line of the limestones approximates to the produced anticlinal line of the Forest, the dip of the limestone becomes greater in amount, and its direction more nearly coincides with that of the slates.—The dip of Breedon is south of west, at an angle exceeding fifty degrees, that of Cloud Hill a little north of west, at an angle not exceeding thirty-five degrees, that of Gracedieu is nearly north north-west, and does not exceed twenty degrees. The position of the beds of Breedon, therefore, is almost entirely the result of the force which acted along the anticlinal line, but that of the beds of Gracedieu is partly the result of that force and partly owing to an original inclination towards the north, which they probably had at the time of their deposition.

About a mile and a half west of these limestones is another more considerable exposure of the formation, extending from Staunton Harold through Calke Park to Ticknall. This is a low, irregular, dome-shaped mass; or it may possibly be a low ridge, traversed by a slight anticlinal line, running north-west and south-east. At Ticknall, the mountain limestone consists of hard beds of blue limestone in the lower part, over which are several feet of shale, alternating with limestone, and upon these lie a few beds of limestone completely dolomitised and resembling that of Breedon. The limestone here dips nearly north-east, at an angle of about fifteen degrees; upon it rest several feet of variegated marls, quite horizontal. An abundance of fossils, more especially the large *producta hemisphærica*, is found in these quarries. In Calke Park, near the Upper Pool, is a small quarry in the higher or dolomitic limestone, where the beds dip south-west, at an angle of about fifteen degrees. These beds thus plunge in the direction of the coal field immediately adjacent, under which they must of course pass, and of which they undoubtedly would be found to form the base, should it be ever penetrated.—At Dimmisdale, between Calke and Staunton, the limestone is seen to rest in a long low arch, as it is horizontal in the centre, while on the west side it dips slightly to south-west, and on the east to the north-east, at an angle of ten degrees. Parts of this limestone are also dolomitic, and it contains bunches of galena or lead ore, which are extracted in what is technically called a pipe work; the ore being followed by a small horizontal gallery or pipe.—The side of this little valley apparently consists of shale, and at the top of the banks some hard blocks of stone, like millstone grit, are found; so that we have here a representation, on a small scale, of the whole of the lower part of the great carboniferous formation of the North of England. Round the northern side of this tract of limestone, as well as round the bases and between the detached pieces of limestone before mentioned, the new red sandstone sweeps in level beds, concealing their connexion from our sight.

We have neither time, space, nor materials, for entering into the details of the coal field, and therefore can only refer our readers to Mr. Mammatt's work, mentioned before, in which they will

find all those that have been hitherto published. The following, however, is a slight sketch of its leading features:—The coal field forms an irregular basin, its beds rising, so far as is known, on every side from its deepest portion, which is Moira colliery. The lower beds seldom rise to the surface of the ground, their outcrop being concealed by the new red sandstone, which sweeps round the coal field with a very irregular boundary, concealing every thing from sight that does not rise above its level. The whole coal field seems to be divided into two irregularly-shaped basins or troughs, by an anticlinal line, that runs somewhere from Smisby by Ashby to Willesley or Packington. The portion west of this line is called the Moira coal field, that east of it the Coleorton coal field. The Moira coal field crops out most decidedly towards the south, namely, around Measham. Along the northern edge the inclination is more gentle, and its eastern boundary is much broken by faults. The Coleorton coal field, on the contrary, crops out entirely towards the north, inasmuch as in that direction the mountain limestone appears from beneath it. The bottom coals are worked at Lount: from which point, taken as an apex, the coal measures form an irregular triangular trough, inclining gently towards the south or south-south-east, and having its edges bent up to the north-east and south-west respectively. The base of this triangle is not known, as the coal measures gradually sink towards the south beneath the new red sandstone, and are worked beneath it at various depths. At Snibston they passed through one hundred and seventy feet of red marls and sandstones, and twenty feet of trap rock, before they came to the coal measures. At Whitwick colliery they pierced one hundred and sixty-five feet of red sandstone, and sixty feet of trap, before they reached the coal measures. The trap is very irregular both in thickness and extent; it turns the coals to coke, and hardens the coal measure sandstones, when it comes in contact with them, but we believe it does not affect the new red sandstone.

At Ibstock one hundred and twenty-six feet of new red sandstone was found, but at Heather it is entirely absent, while at Bagworth colliery, the most southerly point at which coal has been obtained, they passed through no less than three hundred and fifteen feet of alternations of red and white sandstones belonging to the new red formation. Very few faults occur in the Coleorton coal field, while in the Moira field they are very numerous, and of great extent. A great fault runs in a directly straight line from Bamborough through Moira colliery, Swadlincote, and Spring Wood to the Decoy in Bretby Park, a distance of five miles. It causes a downcast on the east of four hundred and twenty feet, the same beds being that much lower on one side of the fault than they are on the other.—(See section No. 3.)

The main coal at Moira is fourteen feet thick, but consists of two portions, the upper and the lower, of which the former only is worked. Towards the north-west these two portions become separated by a bed of shale, which thickens from ten inches at Swadlincote to nearly sixty feet, which is its thickness at Newhall. Here the lower coal is the best, and is the only one worked.

It is probable that what is called the main coal, at Coleorton, which is six feet thick, together with another six feet coal, separated from it by about sixty feet of shale and stone, also represent the main coal of Moira. In the southern part of the Coleorton field this upper six feet coal diminishes in thickness and quality, and the lower coal only is worked. If this view be correct, it is the same coal which is worked as the "main coal" in every part of the whole coal field, however various may be its thickness, or the thickness and quality of the beds above and below it.

On all the rocks hitherto described we have found resting, at one point or other, beds belonging to the new red sandstone; we will now notice their relations a little more particularly. If we consider the new red sandstone as divided into two portions, the upper part consisting principally

of red and variegated marls, with gypsum, the lower chiefly of red and white sandstones, we find the latter occurring on the west and north sides of Charnwood Forest, the former on the east side. The beds which mantle round and obscure the edges of the coal field are part of the lower division; they are quite unconformable to the coal measures, the level beds of the one resting on the upturned edges of the other. Even where the inclination of the coal measures is very gentle, we find the beds of coal gradually rising, and, as it is called, cropping out successively *into* the new red sandstone. The same is the case with the mountain limestone, the highly-inclined beds of Breedon, &c., rising abruptly from the level beds of new red sandstone that sweep around them. On the west side of the Forest, as the hills rise very boldly, the new red sandstone is not seen actually *upon* the slate rocks: but on the east side the slope is more gentle, and accordingly we see beds of red marl, belonging probably to the upper part of the formation, resting horizontally on the slate rocks at various points. In the small quarry at Forest Gate, about six or eight feet of this formation reposes on the sharp edges of the slate, as shown in diagram No. 1. In the little valley of Woodhouse Eaves it runs considerably within the boundaries of the slate rocks, lying in the hollow of the hills. The top of the red marl is here worked for brick-making, and it has been sunk through in the wells of the village, and found to alternate with regular thin "floors" of white sandstone, as is frequently the case. In Swithland slate quarries it is seen resting horizontally on the upturned edges of the slate beds; and it is here worthy of remark, that the stratification of the red marl conforms to the uneven surface of the slates, rising up on the slope of its peaks and sinking gently in its hollows, showing its deposition to have been very gradual and tranquil, and also that the slate rocks had been both upheaved and worn into peaks and hollows before the deposition of the red marl. Red marl runs up all the valleys of the Forest on the east side, some distance beyond its general boundary; and indeed it is scarcely possible, without actual excavation, to say how far it intrudes into them. In the very heart of the Forest, by the road side from Copt Oak to Charley Lodge, are brick-pits in a red diluvial clay, which is nothing more than the washing of the red marl beneath. This is shown by a considerable excavation in a field four or five hundred yards on the north-east, where the red marl is seen with regular white floors of soft sandstone and a horizontal stratification. The valley hence round Charley Hall is evidently filled with red marl, as may be deduced from the richness of the land, contrasted with that of the slate rock. Several old marl-pits may be found in the valley, and one is now open near a large new house not far from Charley Church, which is called, I believe, Upper Blackbrook. There are some brick-pits at a considerable height above the valley, in a lane opposite White Horse Wood, the bottom of which exposes a regular floor of the fine light-coloured sandstone characteristic of the red marl. This floor, or thin bed, dips towards the valley, or about west, at an angle of eight or ten degrees, which is no doubt the original position in which it was deposited, and not due to its subsequent elevation. In the valley below, as shown by the cutting on the road side, are some thick beds of light-coloured sandstone, alternating with red sandstones and thin beds of marl, and evidently belonging not to the upper, but to the lower or second division of the new red sandstone of this district. There are two remarkable circumstances connected with these beds of marl and sandstone thus reposing on Forest rocks. The first is their horizontality, compared with the highly-inclined position of the beds on which they rest. The second is the height at which they are found, being considerably above that to which the beds of the formation generally attain in the surrounding country.

We have now only to notice the position of the lias on the extreme east of the district. The boundary of the lowest bed of this formation passes at the back of Bunny old wood down the

valley between East and West Leake, sweeps round Normanton Hills and Stanford Hills through Stanford Park, to the little brook just north of the village of Hoton. Here the boundary is somewhat obscure, but it passes somewhere east of Hoton, between Prestwold and Burton, and comes down to the bank of the Soar, just north of Barrow. From Barrow it runs down to Sibley and Cossington; it then turns up the right bank of the Wreke to Ratcliff, where it crosses the river and runs in an undulating line by Rearsby, Queniborough, Barkby, Humberstone, to Evington, and thence nearly south-west towards Warwickshire.

The very undulating line which defines the boundary a few miles north and south of Barrow-upon-Soar, is not due solely to unequal denudation. Barrow is one of the most westerly points of the lias, yet it is there lower and more near the level of the Soar than at many places farther east, or in the direction of the general dip of the formation. This could not be, unless it were brought down by faults, or affected by local curvatures and changes of dip. There may be some small faults, but we believe that the lias and red marl of this district are affected by slight anticlinal and synclinal lines running in the direction of the general dip of the formations, or nearly east and west, and producing small curvatures, bending the beds into long ridges and furrows, as it were, or causing several shallow parallel troughs, the sides of which dip gently north and south respectively. At the quarries near Hoton this is certainly the case, the beds in the quarries dipping slightly to the north, while those in a cutting on the road side, at a short distance in that direction dip south. Careful examination would, I believe, show the same thing to take place at Barrow.

DILUVIUM.

Although we have now briefly described the characters and position of all the solid regularly bedded rocks that enter into the structure of the district under examination, there is yet another mass of materials we must examine before we enter on any speculations concerning the causes which have produced the rocks or the forces which have acted on them. Resting on the regularly bedded rocks, indiscriminately, here and there are found piles of sand or gravel, or masses of clay, sometimes a few inches thick, sometimes a hundred feet. Various names are given to this accumulation of earthy matters,—diluvium, diluvial drift, gravel, superficial drift, erratic block group, and others, all more or less applicable to particular cases, but none of them unexceptionable when generally applied. Perhaps the term diluvium, if taken in a general sense, and not restricted to the action of diluvial agency, at any particular period or in any particular manner, is, after all, the best. It is obvious that there must be considerable difficulty in separating and classifying that which has been produced irregularly and partially, and which is left in a confused condition. The diluvium, however, of the neighbourhood of Charnwood Forest may be classed into three divisions. The eastern drift, the quartzose gravel, and the Forest drift. By the eastern drift is meant, simply, that the formations from the ruins of which it has been chiefly, if not wholly derived, are now found on the east of *our* district. It consists, generally, of dark blue clay, or coarse light-coloured sand, containing pebbles and fragments of lias limestone and lias fossils, oolitic limestones and oolitic fossils, lumps of hard chalk, chalk flints and chalk fossils.

The quartzose gravel consists almost wholly of quartz pebbles and sand. The pebbles are perfectly rounded and smooth, the sand frequently very fine. Long and continued attrition in water is the only agency that could reduce hard pieces of quartz into this condition. The fossils and fragments of the eastern drift, on the contrary, are but slightly worn, and some of them are

uninjured. In the quartzose gravel there are sometimes found pieces of mountain limestone, small pebbles of coal, and occasionally dark pebbles, that may be fragments of slate rocks. The quartz pebbles are by far the most abundant, and are of three kinds,—white subcrystalline quartz, from veins, probably from Charnwood Forest, hard fine-grained yellow and liver-coloured quartz rock, like that of Blackbrook, in Charnwood Forest, Hartshill, near Atherstone, or the Lickey, near Bromsgrove, and a granular quartz which, from an occasional vegetable marking, is apparently derived from the sandstones of the coal measures.

The Forest drift consists of large blocks of sienite, porphyry, and slate rock, scattered over the face of the country, and generally lying naked on the ground and unaccompanied by any other materials.

The eastern drift is most abundant on the south and east of the Forest. The ridge of high land from Thurcaston to Glenfield is almost entirely composed of it. South of Leicester, along the whole line of the railway to Rugby, there are the most enormous accumulations of it. Many of the deep cuttings of the railway are wholly in diluvium, and do not even reach the bottom of it. The quartzose gravel is most abundant on the west and north of the Forest; it lies in great abundance over some part of the Ashby coal field, and on the hills overlooking the valley of the Trent. The Forest drift lies chiefly on the south of the Forest. An occasional block may be seen to the north or east; one large block of Forest rock was observed in the village of Wymeswold, and they may be observed occasionally on all sides of the Forest. Over the table land, however, called Leicester Forest, large blocks of slate and sienite are very numerous. They are frequently as much as a yard in diameter, and though most commonly well rounded, they occur sometimes quite angular and unaltered in form from what they may be supposed to have been when originally detached from their parent rock. As we recede from the Forest they undoubtedly become less numerous, smaller, and more perfectly rounded; and, as far as we are aware, cannot be traced to a greater distance than about twenty miles towards the south, and not nearly so far in any other direction.

CONCLUSIONS AND SPECULATIONS.

We have hitherto confined ourselves to geological description, we must now entertain a little geological history. Having examined the characters and conditions of the things as they are, we must deduce a few conclusions and enter on a few speculations as to the causes which produced them, and to which these characters and conditions are owing.—In the first place, we know that the slate rocks were formed under water, and that that water was part of an ocean. In Charnwood Forest we have no *direct* evidence of this fact, but we deduce the conclusion partly from the structure of the slate rocks, which agrees with that of other rocks formed by the deposition of sediment in water, and partly from analogy, since slate rocks similar to those of Charnwood Forest exist in other parts of England and Wales, and *these* often contain an abundance of marine shells and corals. Now, as much of the sediment which formed the slate rocks must have been *very fine*, in order to produce rocks of so fine a grain, and as there are innumerable alternations of fine and coarse-grained beds, and the total thickness of the rocks is very great, so great indeed as to be unknown, the time required for the production of these rocks must have been very great. Because we cannot conceive any circumstances which could at once fill a large body of water with fine earthy matters, and cause it to be suddenly deposited, much less can we understand how any natural causes could produce a frequent alternation of depositions of fine and coarse sediment,

with every gradation between the two, in a limited space of time. Moreover, from the very nature of their formation, these beds must have been originally horizontal, or nearly so, as it would be impossible to deposit large beds of fine sediment on a great slope.

Associated with the slate rocks are certain other rocks called porphyry and sienite; these we know to be igneous rocks, or to have been once in a state of fusion or intense heat.—Of this, also, there is no direct evidence in Charnwood Forest, beyond their mineral structure: and we deduce the conclusion in this case, also, partly from this structure and partly from analogy. The crystalline condition of their several parts could only have resulted from their particles having once had free motion among themselves, and having been at liberty to arrange themselves according to the chemical laws; in other words, from the rock having been once fluid. And we know that fluidity to have resulted from heat, because in other localities rocks identical with these can be proved to have once had intense heat, from the effect they have produced on surrounding rocks, and from other arguments. A trap rock, which differs but little from porphyry, has changed coal in contact with it into coke, in Whitwick colliery.

Some of the beds of porphyry seem to be interstratified with beds of slate, in a regular manner, as if they had been poured out over those beneath them while these formed the bed of the sea, and had been afterwards covered by the gradual deposition of those above them. Other masses of porphyry cut through the beds of slate and enclose large pieces of them, and the slates are highly indurated and partly crystalline, as if they had been subject to intense heat. It appears, then, that during the time these beds of slate were being formed, volcanic action was going on among them at frequent intervals, and great additions made to their mass by the intrusion of large streams of melted rock or lava, and the ejection of volcanic ashes and powder. As this volcanic action, however, took place beneath the pressure of a great superincumbent mass of water, its results would necessarily be very different from any we can observe in subærial volcanoes. The volcanic ashes would be held some time in suspension by the water, and by the action of its currents would be strewn out over large areas, in a regular manner, being deposited at last as beds of fine mud or clay, which from subsequent pressure, and perhaps from the subsequent general action of heat, would become highly indurated, and form hard compact rock. The lavas, also, as they would cool under great pressure, would be more perfectly crystalline, and form much heavier and compact rocks, than those formed by lava streams cooling only under the pressure of the atmosphere.

It appears, then, that the porphyries, taken as a mass, were contemporaneous with the slate rocks, also taken en masse, and that the two had a partly common origin. Of the age of the sienites, however, we have not such clear evidence, inasmuch as their junction with the slate rocks is nowhere exposed. It is often found to be the case, that where granites or sienites and slate rocks come together, the granites are newer than the slates, forming the centres from which the slates incline, and being, in fact, the tangible result of the very power by which the slates have been upheaved. It might therefore, at first, be supposed that this was the case in Charnwood Forest, and that the sienite was produced at the time the anticlinal line of the slates was formed, and at a time long posterior to the formation of the slates themselves; such, however, we believe not to be the case, and we incline to regard the sienite as contemporaneous with the porphyries, or nearly so, from the following considerations. In the first place, in Hammercliff Hill the porphyries pass into sienite with such an apparently imperceptible gradation, as would force us to believe them at least to have been produced at the same time, and to be parts of the same mass of melted matter, assuming different forms, according to slight modifications in its conditions of cooling. In the second place, no sienite is seen along the anticlinal line of the Forest, and no local disturbance is

exhibited in the dip or strike of the slates in the immediate neighbourhood of the lumps of sienite at Groby and Markfield. The sienite, therefore, must have existed before any inclination was given to the slate rocks of the Forest, and it could not be connected with the disturbing power that produced that inclination, or we should either have found it where the greatest disturbing force acted, namely, along the anticlinal line, or where we do find it we should have found some disturbance.

Again, the small sienite hills which protrude through the new red sandstone, some miles south of the Forest, namely, at Enderby, Croft, Narborough, Potter's Marston, and Sapcote, and the occurrence of sienite in an abortive sinking for coal at Kirby Muxloe (if the latter circumstance be correct), show a very general extension of sienite beneath the new red sandstone far from the Forest. Now at some places this sienite seems on the point of passing into porphyry; at none is there any evidence of the age of its production; and its whole bearing and character seem to us to favour the supposition of its being nearly, if not quite, contemporaneous with the slates and porphyries, and of its having formed with them a connected ridge of primary rocks, at a period long anterior to the formation of *any* of the secondary rocks by which it is now covered and surrounded.

Taking for granted that the sienite existed before the movement which produced the anticlinal line, its age is certainly thrown back very near to that of the slates, since we believe it possible to show, or at least to render it highly probable, that some movement of elevation took place in the slate rocks of Charnwood Forest, along the general direction of their present anticlinal line, long anterior to the formation of the carboniferous group.

For this purpose, however, it will be necessary to enter a little on the general geological structure of England and Wales.—The carboniferous formation of the north of England consists of an immense accumulation of shales, sandstones, limestones, and coals, of which the coal is generally found at the top and the limestone at the bottom. The whole series may be divided into three groups.—1. Coal measures. 2. Millstone grit. 3. Mountain limestone.

The same groups may be applied to the carboniferous formation of Gloucestershire and south Wales, but here the two lower portions are much thinner than in the north of England. To make amends for this, the old red sandstone, which in the north of England is partial and almost wanting, swells out in the south to an amazing bulk, and becomes a large and important formation. Beneath the carboniferous and old red sandstone formations are found shales, sandstones, limestones and slate rocks belonging to the Silurian and Cambrian formations. We see, then, that both in the north and south of England the coal measures are separated from the Silurian and Cambrian systems by a vast body of other rocks, and we know that all these rocks were formed under water, and that a great part, at least, were formed in the sea. Along a band of country, however, extending from Radnorshire to Leicestershire, and including the coal fields of Shropshire, south Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire, the upper part only of the carboniferous system is found; namely, the coal measures, which rest upon the Silurian and Cambrian* systems, without the intervention of either millstone grit, mountain limestone, or old red sandstone. On the north side of the Shropshire coal field, indeed, as on that of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, small patches of mountain limestone are found, but evidently of a debased and unimportant character, thinning out towards the south, and but the thin remnants and extreme boundaries of the great formation on the north. On the south of the Shropshire coal field, also, old red sandstone

* The term Cambrian is applied here provisionally to the slates of Hartshill and Charnwood.

is found, but this is also very thin, compared with the bulk it attains as it recedes from the coal field towards the south. It appears, then, that along the line running through these four midland coal fields, there is an old ridge of rocks, which existed as a range either of shallows or of islands in the old sea, in which the old red sandstone and mountain limestone were deposited, and that from this ridge the sea became deeper on either hand. Whether any points of this range, such as Charnwood Forest, ever reached above the water, and actually formed an island, on which grew the luxuriant vegetation now entombed in the coal measures, we cannot ascertain: but that the range generally had a considerable elevation above the general bottom of this old sea is nearly certain.

Another direct argument in corroboration of this conclusion may be deduced in the following way:—All the lines of greatest disturbance in the four coal fields before mentioned, both in the coal measures and the rocks beneath them, are parallel, or nearly so; ranging between north and south and north-west and south-east. It follows, from what we know of geological dynamics, that the first production of these lines was a simultaneous one; that the force, whatever it was, which *first produced* these parallel fractures, and marked out the directions along which any subsequent elevating force must necessarily act, extended over the whole area, including the four coal fields, at one and the same time. Now in the Shropshire and south Staffordshire coal fields, the coal measures rest sometimes on one part of the Silurian formation, sometimes on another; disturbing and denuding forces therefore had been at work on the Silurian rocks before the coal measures were deposited. Even in particular localities, the two things are unconformable, or rest in discordant positions. On the north end of the Wren's nest, near Dudley, the Dudley limestone plunges at an angle of sixty or seventy degrees beneath the coal measures which sweep round and abut against it, lying at an angle of not more than ten degrees with the horizon, as may be seen in a large open work in the ten yard coal close by. Great fractures and elevations in the Silurian rocks, then, were here produced long before the deposition of the coal measures, which consequently gives an equally ancient date, at least, for the movements throughout the district, and therefore for the first movements in the slate rocks of Charnwood Forest. Could we strip off the new red sandstone from the Coleorton coal field, we should most probably see the coal measures resting conformably on mountain limestone between Lount and Gracedieu, and abutting unconformably against the slates and porphyries between Whitwick and Bardon.

Still another argument might possibly be deduced, from the great amount of denudation which took place among the hard rocks of the Forest anterior to the deposition of the new red sandstone, and which it is difficult to think could have been produced in a limited period of time.

Resuming now our history, we may say that, after the deposition of the slate rocks and the formation of the porphyries, there elapsed a very great and unknown period of time. During the earliest part of this period, the igneous rocks were cooled and the aqueous rocks consolidated. The jointed structure of both was also produced; but whether by a purely mechanical process, or by an action obeying higher and more general laws, we do not at present know. During some part of this interval, also, the whole mass of the slate rocks, in common with the other slate rocks of England and Wales, were subjected to the action of a very general and powerful, though mysterious force, which entirely sealed up and compacted together the original lamination and line of bedding in the slate rocks, and gave them, as a mass, a tendency to split in other directions, often with the greatest regularity and the most perfect parallelism. The compass bearing of these cleavage planes, which thus traverse the slates, varies in different places: but taking the whole Forest together, it is most frequently found to strike about twenty degrees north of west and south

of east, or north north-west and east south-east. The angle the cleavage planes make with the horizon is also found to vary a little, but they are always highly inclined and frequently perpendicular. They pay no respect to the angle which the beds make with the horizon, being equally perpendicular whether the beds are highly or slightly inclined. Hence another argument may be drawn for the early period at which the beds had acquired some inclination, since it appears to have been before they were traversed by the cleavage, and they must have been traversed by the cleavage before the existence of the shales of the coal measures, or why were they not also affected by this cleavage? At all events, from the arguments before given, it is highly probable that, during the long interval which elapsed after the formation of the slates, they were acted upon by elevating forces, as well as by the secret agency which produced the cleavage.

What was the exact condition of the district in other respects, during any part of this interval, we do not know. It may have been an island; but whether above or under water, it was surrounded by a deep sea, in which were formed immense accumulations that are now limestones, shales, and sandstones, teeming with fragments of organic beings, this ancient sea's inhabitants. A small portion of these accumulations is seen in the mountain limestones on the north-west of the Forest. This extensive sea seems gradually to have been filled up or made shallower, and either converted into a fresh-water lake, or, as is more probable, to have been swept over by the outpouring of some vast river draining a neighbouring continent. Heaps of sand and mud, and the wreck and ruin of matted Forests, rank with more than the luxuriance of a tropical vegetation, were at all events brought in by some mighty and continuous tide, and being deposited in its depths were converted into the coal, shale, and sandstone, that now compose the coal measures. These have a thickness of more than a thousand feet, and must of themselves, under any conceivable circumstances, have occupied immense periods of time in their formation. It is probable that, during that time, little or no disturbance was given to the rocks by elevatory or other forces. In a neighbouring district, indeed, in the coal field of Warwickshire, we know that the whole of the coal measures, and some of the bottom beds of the lowest part of the new red sandstone (the *rothe todle liëgende*), were deposited tranquilly and without interruption, since we find the beds of the red sandstone passing down by a regular gradation into the coal measures, the point of junction being marked by some thin beds of fresh-water limestone, and the whole mass partaking of the same inclination, and affected by the same dislocations. It must have been, therefore, some time after the close of the carboniferous period, that the great and general movements of elevation and disturbance took place, which, in common with all the other carboniferous districts of England, acted on the Charnwood Forest district, gave to the slates additional elevation and a further dislocation, set on edge the mountain limestone of Breedon, Osgathorpe, and Gracedieu, as well as that of Calke and Ticknall, raised up, cracked, and broke through the coal measures in various directions, and heightened or produced all the different faults, anticlinal lines, and disturbances, which are now found in these several formations. Still the district was beneath the level of the sea, and it may easily be conceived that these powerful movements in the solid matters of its bed must be accompanied with frequent and strong currents in its waters. We find, accordingly, that powerful denuding forces were at work at this time, by which the broken fragments of the rocks were swept away and rolled into pebbles, and their surfaces for a long time worn down and the netritus converted into sand or clay, forming the conglomerates, sandstones and marls of the new red sandstone formation. This formation is nothing more than an ancient marine diluvium, on a large scale. Of the quantity of materials destroyed to form its beds we may acquire some notion, when we consider that all, or nearly all the valleys in the hard rocks of Charnwood

Forest were scooped out, and immense portions of the coal measures removed, before it was deposited. If we were to draw an accurate section of the Forest, and continue the lines of its beds from their present broken edges till they met near the anticlinal line, and thus formed one lofty unbroken ridge, we should get a measure by which to estimate how much has been carried off from this ridge to form the present comparatively low and eroded surface of the ground.* Now all this was carried away, and even more than this, before the new red sandstone was deposited: because all the present valleys contain new red sandstone, lying in level beds, sweeping up them and conforming to their outline, and to a certain extent filling them up and rendering the depression less than it would be were the surface of the slate rocks universally exposed. If we pass from the Forest to the coal measures we find evidence of an almost equal amount of degradation. If we look at section No. 3, it will be seen that, on one side of the great fault there exhibited, the beds are four hundred and thirty feet higher than on the other, but the present surface of the ground shows no such elevation, all that part therefore marked by dotted lines must have been removed. But even on the other side of the fault, the beds existing immediately below the surface of the ground are not the highest beds of the formation; there has, in all probability, been some beds above them, which have been removed. And if we look at the whole coal field, and see its broken and distorted position, the lower beds coming out to the surface in one place, lying hundreds of yards below other beds in another place,—we are compelled to ask ourselves what has become of the remainder of these beds? Wherever we find beds that we know once to have been horizontal, and to have been covered by others in a horizontal position, coming up successively to the surface of the ground, and there ending suddenly, we must be assured that they are but a part of what once existed, and that the remaining portion, however vast may have been its extent, has been removed by denudation.

There must have been, then, in the Ashby coal field, as in all others, a most enormous destruction and denudation of once existing materials, to produce the present surface: and though the whole of this may not have taken place before the deposition of the new red sandstone, yet much of it did, and it is of the very ruin and rubbish of this denudation that the new red sandstone is formed. Many of the pebbles in the neighbouring conglomerate beds of the new red formation consist of coal measure sandstones, which preserve their vegetable markings, some of them of pieces of mountain limestone, perfectly rounded, others may be derived from some of the Forest rocks, but the majority are of quartz. It is at first sight difficult to say why, when we find so many quartz pebbles in the new red sandstone, we should not find an equal number of slate, or even of porphyry or sienite, but I think a reason may be found in the different characters of these rocks. The porphyries and great part of the sienites consist of enormous compact blocks, which water may wear down, indeed, but could never break, and no ordinary current could wash away. The slates are more easily broken into small pieces, but those pieces are comparatively flat, sharp, and very angular, so as easily to be converted into shingle, but not easily rolled to any great distance. These shingles, by constant mutual attrition, would be ground down into fine mud or sand, and would scarcely ever be so rounded as to be called pebbles. The quartz, on the contrary, though very hard, is traversed by so many fine joints, as to be easily shattered by a slight blow, or even to fall to pieces under the influence of the weather, and it breaks into small cuboidal blocks, not larger than a man's head nor smaller than his fist. Whichever way these blocks rest

* If, in sections No. 1 and 2, the lines of stratification in the Forest rocks be produced upwards, till they nearly meet, a *distorted* image of their original condition will be produced, because the scales of height and length are necessarily different in drawing any section, in order to reduce it within reasonable horizontal limits.

they present an equal surface to the water: a slight current would set them in motion, a very little wearing down of their corners would give them a spherical figure, they would then be easily rolled, and soon converted, by their mutual attrition, into the smooth, perfectly rounded quartz pebbles, so common in the conglomerates of the new red sandstone and the gravel which is derived from them. If, therefore, a district consisting of slates, porphyries, and quartz rock, were now subjected to the action of strong tides and currents and the dash of a heavy surf, the parts farthest removed and rolled into pebbles would be the quartz rock, while the slates would be more probably re-converted into their original clay.

It is in the lower beds of the new red sandstone that we find the greatest abundance of conglomerates, as if there were a particular period during which the pre-existing rocks were most fractured, or were acted upon by the strongest currents; and the higher beds of new red sandstone gradually become more and more fine, as though the sea were becoming more tranquil and more clear, till at last it contained nothing in suspension in any part of it but the finest mud or clay. At one particular period the water held in solution a large portion of sulphate of lime (perhaps derived from the bursting out of hot springs), which being precipitated, formed the beds of gypsum found in the upper part of the red marls. At length the sea ceased altogether to deposit red marls or sandstones, but occasionally threw down some thin bands of very fine blue clay, and sometimes precipitated a still thinner band of carbonate of lime, the two things alternating with each other and spreading over various small limits, according to the varying conditions of the water, or the detritus it contained. The inhabitants of the sea at this time were entirely different from the beings that peopled it when the mountain limestone was formed. Of the multitude of corals and univalve and bivalve shells found in that formation, not one occurs in the lias, but on the contrary, both bivalve and univalve shells of different species and even different genera. The fish enclosed in such numbers in the limestones of the lias, are generically distinct from the fish the fragments of whose scales and teeth are found in the coal measures and mountain limestones. No reptiles' bones have ever yet been discovered in the two latter formations, while in the lias innumerable ichthyosauri and plesiosauri, marine lizards of enormous size and strength, have left their skeletons in the now solid rock, and like Ossian's heroes might say to the stones—

“Daughters of the streams, now reared on high, speak to the feeble after Selma's race have failed.”

After the epoch of the deposition of the lias we have no record left of what took place in our district during an enormous interval of time, whose lapse is measured by the formation in other parts of our island of the higher secondary rocks, and by the production of the whole of the Tertiary rocks. At a comparatively very recent period, however, the district has been again traversed by currents of water, which probably causing still further denudation over the slate rocks and coal measures, has also greatly worn down and eaten away the beds of lias and new red sandstone themselves. The detached patches of red marl in the valleys of the Forest were probably once more extensive than they are now. The original surface of the new red sandstone was probably a nearly perfect plane, rising gently on every side towards the Forest, filling its valleys and mantling round its sides, leaving none but the higher peaks exposed to view. Over this nearly horizontal plane lay the lias, equally, if not more horizontal, thinning out and ending probably towards the Forest, but approaching it much more nearly than it does now. To produce the existing undulating surface, all the lias west of its present irregular and broken boundary, and much of the new red sandstone beneath, has been removed by currents of water, scooping and hollowing

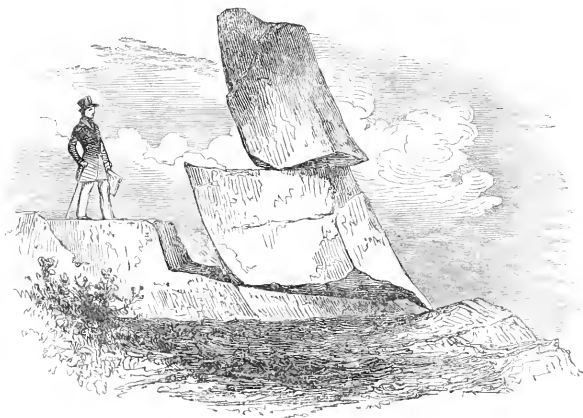
it out, and producing the present valley of the Soar and its collateral valleys. Portions of the higher beds of new red sandstone, namely the variegated marls, protected by the solid rocks around them, have been left in the Forest to show the height the formation once attained,* and to mark the destruction caused by the denuding forces. When this denudation took place we cannot precisely say, but probably just prior to or during the time the gravel was deposited. The quartzose gravel on the north-west of the district is, indeed, little else than the conglomerate beds of the new red sandstone, partially stirred and re-integrated. It is often exceedingly difficult to say which is a modern gravel bed and which is an old conglomerate. Occasionally, however, a chalk flint or a lias fossil may be detected in quartzose gravel, and we may then conclude that this gravel was stirred by the currents of the modern diluvial period. It may easily happen that, in the same gravel-pit, the lower part has never been moved since the time of the new red sandstone, while the upper has been acted upon by modern currents, and yet no perceptible difference be apparent between the two. That the currents which brought in the great accumulations we have called the eastern drift, proceeded far beyond the boundaries where much of that drift is to be seen is certain, as chalk flints are occasionally scattered over the surface.† We accordingly find, in some gravel-pits, a mixture of the eastern drift with quartz pebbles. The subject, however, of the diluvium, and the currents of water or other causes which produced it, is a far too wide and intricate one to be discussed within our limits. Neither shall we do more than touch on the tempting subject of the Forest drift. Mere currents of water can certainly hardly be supposed to have transported huge blocks of sienite or slate for miles from their ancient abodes, over an undulating surface of ground, composed of soft and yielding materials. The agency of icebergs is the most probable hypothesis, but though we have sailed among fields of ice for weeks, and could sometimes have counted fifty icebergs from the mast head at one time, we do not consider ourselves warranted in giving an opinion. The subject is at present one beset with difficulties, and among other geological desiderata, a good description and explanation of the gravel beds or diluvium, or the erratic block group, is one of the most desirable.

The speculations here entertained may perhaps appear to those who enter on them for the first time, as useless or extravagant. They could not possibly commit a greater mistake. Our very existence as a great commercial nation is based upon our mineral wealth, more especially the abundance of our coal and iron. So vast, however, is the drain on the coal fields at present worked, that already do we begin to look forward to the time when these supplies may fail. So greatly, too, does the existence of coal at a particular depth beneath the surface add to the value of land, that the imagination of the possessor becomes inflamed with the bare possibility of its being the case, and he too often loses the substance in grasping at the shadow. Even in these our days, in spite of all the warning of geologists, men are led on by the over ardent or the designing, to squander their money in search of coal where its existence is improbable or even impossible. Even for the purpose, then, of regulating or restraining private speculation, it is of importance thoroughly to understand the structure of the neighbourhood of the mineral districts. But it becomes a question of the most vital interest to the existence and future prosperity of the nation at

* It is not meant that even the highest beds of the new red sandstone ever attained the same general height over the surrounding country which they have in the Forest, as they would naturally be deposited on a gentle slope, rising higher on the sides of the hills than elsewhere.

† I found one large chalk flint (among several other instances) near Ashbourne, containing the cast of an inoceramus, and lying loose on the surface of the ground. In some red clay at Compton, near Wolverhampton, many lias and oolitic fossils were found, some years ago.—*J. B. Jukes.*

large, when we come to consider in what places and at what depths the coal measures may exist, where they are not visible at the surface of the ground? To determine this question it is necessary particularly to examine the boundary faults of the present coal fields and to understand their nature, and also to have accurate ideas not only of the general relations of the coal measures and new red sandstones, but also of the particular relative positions they may occupy in particular localities. It is desirable to ascertain all the possibilities of the case: what may be the possible thickness which the new red sandstone may ever attain, and what may be the possible or probable rocks on which it may rest. To acquire this knowledge we must speculate, we must reason, we must theorize, as it is called. We must rise from the mere observation of the rocks themselves to an inquiry into the causes that produced them, before we can ever hope to make mining operations more than a mere mole-like groping in the dark, and give it the characters of scientific certainty and assurance. The two most important practical questions on which geological science must shortly be brought to bear in the central districts of England are, the nature of the boundary faults of our present coal fields and the possible thickness of the new red sandstone.* As we are not, however, now writing a mineral report, we will enter no farther on the subject, but hope that what has been said may be of use to the student, or of interest to the general observer, in their excursions about the wild hills and interesting neighbourhood of Charnwood Forest.



THE HANGING STONE ROCK, NEAR THE OAKS CHAPEL.

* It has been reported that, at the experiment at New-found Pool, near Leicester, they pierced to a depth of 1000 feet in the new red sandstone without passing through it.

LAND-SLIP ON CHARNWOOD FOREST.

The following singular piece of solemn nonsense, though written with all the gravity of sober truth, is taken from the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum. Nichols terms it an "obscene pamphlet," and only barely mentions it. Its absurdity is its chief recommendation to these pages, in which it would certainly have found no place had it deserved the epithet Mr. Nichols applied to it. Perhaps a better specimen of the state of geological science in the seventeenth century could not be adduced. I have in vain tried to discover who the "Two Lovers of Art" were—a literary friend thinks "J. W." might be Bishop Wilkins, author of a "Voyage to the Moon!" :—

A BRIEF RELATION of a WONDERFUL ACCIDENT, a DISSOLUTION OF THE EARTH, in the FOREST of CHARNWOOD, about two miles from Loughborough, in Leicestershire; lately done, and discovered, and resorted to, by many People, both old and young.

Published by two Lovers of Art, J. C. and J. W., MDCLXXIX.

(QUARTO; CONTAINING SIX PAGES.)

TO THE READER.

To your ingenuous acceptance, we communicate these our observations; not for 'filthy lucre's sake,' but for public satisfaction, and truth's sake; being provoked thereto by some persons of quality. Considering the evil custom of erroneous reports, and the fearful rumours of ignorant people.

Read, and judge charitably, without critical and incredulous censure: here is no wandering prolixity, nor superfluous embellishment of eloquence, but a scrutiny into the proper antithesis, apparelled with necessary language. Be candid, not cunning.—*Fale.*

The figure is almost circular, posited in a declining position to the horizon; it being the end or fragment of a hilly body, and contains about two acres of ground.

In its upper division, or primary breach, the lower or fallen part of it, lies a yard (in some places) beneath the unmoved body. About three parts of this circular wonder shows symptoms of the efficient cause; and the rest shows little, or no defect.

About three paces from the upper breach, or prime division, is a second trench all down one curve of the circle, aforesaid, and some second fractures be on the other side these; over the prime trench, or breach, lieth a narrow pathway; the fallen part, whose hypotenusal should fall upon the true angular point (if it had a perpendicular fall) is subverted, and turned aside one foot or more.

Between the prime breach and second curvery fracture, the earth shows a perpendicular descent or down-right falling, because it doth thrust itself within its former bounds; on the other side of the curve, which is higher ground, the parts of the earth fallen, and unfallen, show the distance of a foot; which, if it should be raised to a parallel, with its former bounds, would differ half a yard. The sine for these curves is the radius or total sine.

The lower part of the periphery (or arch opposite to the primary breach) is rolled in, with an overshooting of its bounds; as if it were driven, being light in substance, and stones (in some places thereof) thrust forth themselves. This lower curve contains about half the radius for its versed sine.

The unbreached part of the periphery lies on the lower side of the hill, in respect to the hill's ridge.

Some persons judge water to be the cause of the breach; others say wind.

The latter we account proper, and consider both, in method and manner following.

1.—That it was not water.

2.—That it was occasioned by wind.

Reasons negative, and affirmative, that it was not water.

1. Water doth naturally run in a channel hasting forward, yea, and that when the ground is level; but, where the ground descendeth, through which it is to pass, there it forceth with a more direct course, and speedy stream; not dilating itself, but rather drawing its body into more narrow bounds.

2. If water had been the cause, then it should not have run in a round figure, where the hill is so much descending; unless some artificial pipes had been laid, which by the attractive power of the air should draw the water up again; which if fancy, or any person's supposition, should incline to, yet nevertheless it would have more powerful force in its descent, than ascent.

3. Had water (by its violent billows) caused this accident, it would either have done it by an eruption outwards, or a dissolution of the earth within; whereby the upper superficies should have fallen in, or sunk within its counterterminal sides. Indeed, some part of the ground we allow to be depressed, but another part is not, but rather heightened, by rolling up; and, how any thing should produce contrary effects to its nature is marvellous!

4. Had water been the cause, by demolishing the entrails of the earth then (running in a channel), the breach should be opposite to its current; and should, from hence, the current of water be guessed to fall where the ground is fallen in, all down one curve of the circle, then should not another breach considerable appear from its production, and the earth would have been over-shot or carried that way as the current of water past;* but the earth is carried that way where no such falling-in appears.

That it was wind.

1. Because it is so improbable to be water; we judge wind might be the cause, forasmuch as it is its property to produce such effects.

2. For wind being gathered, and straitened within the bowels of the earth, in order to an earthquake, doth at last (by a volatile motion) break or burst forth in some place or other, with great violence; rending, twisting in, and burying the earth within its own bowels; and in its motion, arching, flying, and searching about, might (very naturally) cause this breach.

3. Because the lower part of the periphery, which is overshoot, lies rolled in, huft, or blown, darting from its swollen (or enlarged) pores, stones of a considerable weight; as also the root of a tree, which is turned up in the primary breach.

* I may just mention here that I copy the orthography, whether correct or not.—A.

4. This being the front of a lilly range, the earthquake might come running along, and there disburden itself; and that moreover, as it is free from rocks, the ground solvible, and consequently the pores more easily extended.

Arguments corresponding with the former reasons.

1. If water had been the cause; then from a slant descent or ascent, the breach would have shown itself in a right-lined, or serpentine figure, and more especially in a right-lined figure, its surface having declination.

But this breach is circular, and declining, contrary to a right-lined, or cucular figure.

Therefore the cause could not be water.

2. Water was not the cause, but rather wind; for wind is volatile, light, and forcible, and known to be of circular motion: where it is straitened, and wants liberty to disburden, or disperse itself into its own element, it searches a passage; and, by operation is (by philosophers) accounted the cause of earthquakes; it vents, and turns up the earth in its delivery thence.

But, in this breach, the figure is circular, diversely fractured, blown of huft up, and writhed, which are the symptoms of an earthquake.

Ergo, wind was the proper and true cause.

Now it remains, that we answer three objections, and conclude.

1. Some may say, had there been an earthquake, why was it not discerned, felt, or discovered, by one or other?

2. Though towns be not very nigh, yet there be some inhabitants on the Forest nigh resident; and would not they have been sensible of some motion or noise which accompany earthquakes?

3. There be many trees, not far off; would not some of them have received prejudice by overturning, or rocks, where you suppose the windy commotion ran along?

Answer to the Objections.

1. Had there been any inhabitants dwelling on the said hill they might then have felt it.

2. As for them that dwell nigh, they might very well be insensible of noise, or motion, which might happen in the night; and because earthquakes (more general ones) have been experienced to operate in one part of the town, and not in another part of the same; or in a various manner, in a little distance; no wonder then if such inhabitants perceive it not.

3. As for the trees, how should they be prejudiced where the earthquake came not? But, had trees stood where the breach was made, they would probably have been overthrown, as the root of a tree aforesaid; and, as for the rocks not being removed over the windy passage, they might be spared for the same reason that the ground in those places was; and both spared, because the disturbance hastens along to the front, as a stone to its centre.

SINGULAR APPEARANCE IN THE LAKE AT GARENDON.

The following account of a singular appearance in the Lake near Garendon Abbey, is a proper pendant to the foregoing account of the "Dissolution of the Earth." There are, besides, some statements in it which render it historically interesting, as showing the prevailing superstitions of the times:—

The most strange and wonderful APPARITION OF BLOOD IN A POOL AT GARRATON, in Leicestershire, which continued for the space of four days; the redness of the colour for the space of those four days every day increasing higher and higher, to the infinite amazement of many hundreds of beholders of all degrees and conditions, who have dipped their handkerchiefs in this bloody pool; the scarlet complexion of the linen will be a testimonial of this wonderful truth to many succeeding generations.

Printed at London, by J. H., 1645.

Whoever shall consider these sad times, wherein not only the son riseth against the father, the brother against the brother, and the spirit of dissention and war is spread over the whole face of the earth, but such prodigious and wonderful things have appeared as no age before have ever seen or heard of; he must confess that he liveth now in the evening of time, and in the last age of the world, wherein all things do begin to suffer a change. I will not trouble you with any thing which in this nature hath heretofore been delivered to you. The sword at Plaisto flourishing without hands, and the great stone clambering up the stairs, and whatsoever there is strange or wonderful, are but sluggish miacions compared to this, which doth the rather prefer itself to your observation; because in the business of Plaisto there were to be seen for the most part but some knavish lights, and as it were the *hocus pocus* of a spirit: but in this which shall now be represented unto you, the immediate anger of God, in great characters of blood, is most apparently to be read. At Garraton, a town in Leicestershire, not far from Loughborough, is a great pond of water, which for many generations hath been known to be there time out of mind: it is above an acre in the length, and about an acre in the breadth. It was made at first to satisfy the thirst of the cattle, which from the commons and pastures thereabout, did daily resort unto it; and sometimes it allayed the drought of the poor and thirsty traveller; but now (as if it were another element) it altered both its nature and complexion, for the beasts did refuse to drink thereof; and some few days afterwards being passed, they would not come near the water; which the countrymen and inhabitants who were owners of the cattle thereabouts perceiving, they repaired to the pond to see what the reason of this strange thing should be. Amazed at the novelty of this sight, they departed from the place. They make a relation of it to their friends; and one neighbour brings in another to behold this wonderful chance. The noise is spread over all the country; and in thronging numbers they make haste to see it. The water, which at first began to look but reddish, doth now look higher and higher; and as the people came in it did increase in colour. This continued for the space of four days, the country, far and near, who had notice of it, coming in to be spectators of it. It waxed more red the second day than it seemed at the first; and far more red the third day than it did on the second; and on the fourth day it grew a perfect sanguine.

There is no wonder in this nature but carrieth some devotion in it. The people stand round about the banks of the pond ; and, from looking on the water they look up to heaven, from whence they believe that the wonder came. With reverence they discover this miracle of the water turned into wine ; but of the water turned into blood, they never heard of that wonder before. Some of them, more hardy than the rest, would undertake to taste of it, to understand if it were already as much in taste as in complexion ; but they were severely charged by those that did stand by them, and were told that they might follow the more wise example of the beasts ; for, since the cattle refused to drink of the water, by so doing they would now show themselves more brutish than the beasts. The water still continueth in its bloody colour, and had all one standing face of blood ; and withal it seems so thick, that if a high wind had blown, it is believed that it would very hardly at all, or else very gently have moved. Every day brought in new observers to behold this admirable pool ; and who had but seen it the day before could not be content with one day's wonder, but must come the next day to behold it againe. It was the object of all the eyes thereabouts ; and on their return homewards the subject of all their discourse : the knights, the gentlemen, and the ladies, the peasants and their families, stood all close together round about it ; and being overcome with the amazement of the sight, there was no regard unto degrees or distinctions of persons ; and it seemed they learned this instruction from the pond, which they now make use of, that they were all but one blood. From the observations of the blood, they fall into the consideration at last, of the bloody times wherein they live ; and being so near to Loughborough, they grow in discourse of how much blood hath been spilt by the lord of Loughborough his means, who, being there the great agent of the King, hath robbed many house-keepers in those parts of their goods and their treasure, and, which is far more dear to them, many of their children's lives. Report in the way is made how many families hath he robbed of their fathers, and how many he hath left without their children. They report from the beginning all the skirmishes that have been made in those parts, and all the battles that have been fought, and all the sieges that have been laid and raised ; and passing from one devouring business to another, they do curse the proceedings of the civil war. The true narration of this water turned into blood may be put into succeeding calendars ; and it may be printed in its own rubrick. In our days did this prodigious sight appear ; and afterwards the crimson colour of the pond did begin to change, and every day to look paler and paler, until at length it by degrees turned unto its first complexion of water, the bloody substance sinking down and by its own weight settling itself in the bottom of the pond. In the mean time, the rumour of this flying up and down the country, there being above one thousand witnesses to justify the truth of it. One Master Neale, a gentleman of good account, living at Great Leake in Nottinghamshire, being travelling on his occasions to London, and hearing the report of it to be commonly spoken, as he did ride upon the way, though it was four miles out of the road, he resolved to see it ; and, making haste, easily overcame the length of the way, out of a desire to enjoy the novelty of the sight. Being arrived, he sat a long time on horseback at the entrance into the pond musing and looking on it (for it was just at that time when the water did begin to return to its first complexion), and perceiving the red substance in the nature of a filmy body to descend towards the bottom, he did put spurs to his horse, who did fling back, and snorted, and was unwilling to go into the pond ; but after he had forced him to enter a little way into it, and stirred towards the bottom of the water with his cane, he perceived clots, as it were, of congealed blood in great abundance to rise up ; and having staid upon the top of the water for a little space, to descend afterwards by degrees again. Not able to satisfy himself with any reason from whence this wonder should arise, he departed ; but the country people resolving to examine and dive into

the cause thereof, they had a meeting amongst themselves for that intent, and concluded at it to have the pond drained, it being believed that the enemy had thrown some carcasses into the pond to stain the water, and to bring thereby some sudden destruction upon the cattle. This belief being entertained, the sluice is opened, and now the water comes tumbling forth as if it were glad of its liberty, and was afraid to stay any longer in the portentous place; where, before it was in a swift torrent, it made good its passage as if one part were in emulation to overtake the other; and the latter strove with the former for the honour of proceeding; and to perfect the work, wherein some deeper places of the pond the water stood still, and could not disadvantage itself into the channel, the countrymen, some with scoops and some with pails, did carry forth the water. With many hands they overcame the task, which seemed at first almost impossible. And the pond being drained, and found nothing but fish, of which in divers kinds there were great store, and these fish seemed still to be very good, and nothing the worse for that miraculous accident which had made red the water. We may learn by this what God can do; who, in a most wonderful way, can express his power without the least damage to his creatures. Howsoever, the pond being drained dry, which may increase the wonder, the blood in many places was discovered in extended degrees to be like so many scarlet carpets on the bottom of the pool, to the unspeakable amazement of the beholders; and indeed they may well put wonder on it; for though, in our own Chronicles and in other Histories, we have read sometimes of clouds that have rained drops of blood, which though it is very wonderful, yet, because philosophers have undertaken to give a natural reason for it, it subtracteth something from the greatness of the wonder: but this, as no cause can be assigned for it, so no story as I remember can example it; but being as far beyond nature as example, it sheweth itself to proceed from the immediate power and the hand of God. I will not presume to give you the interpretation of it; nor say it is suitable to the present condition of these bleeding times; neither will I be so hardy as to affirm, that the four days wherein the water every day seemed to increase in the redness of its colour doth signify the four years of the war, which now are already or nearly expired, and that as the water every day, for the four days, exceeded one another in the defines of its sanguine dye, it looked every day redder than before, so the war for these four years hath every year been one year more bloody than the other; surely it will prove good news, could I from hence assure you, that, as after the four days being ended, the water did begin to return in its first genuine colour; so the fourth year of this war being expired, the kingdom shall again return to its ancient blessing and habit of peace; and that as the water bringing its first cleanness, the blood did sink down and vanish away, so now the crying sin of blood shall be washed away from this kingdom by the cleanness of a new life and by the tears of true repentance. There were many of the town of Garraton, both men and women, and of the inhabitants of the country thereabout, who dipped their handkerchiefs in this pond when it was of a bloody colour; and the linen retaining the complexion of blood, it will be a testimonial to succeeding times of this most strange and wonderful accident, and of the truth of what we write.

BOTANY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

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THE following catalogue of wild plants, found in Charnwood Forest and its vicinity, will give a general idea of the Botany of the Forest. The greater number of the flowering plants have come under the immediate observation of the Compiler; for others he is indebted to authority on which he can rely; particularly to a friend residing near the Forest. The list of Cryptogamia, in particular, would not have been so full as it is, but for his assistance. The Compiler has had comparatively few opportunities of detecting these minuter, but not less interesting treasures of Creation, his residence being at some distance from any portion of the Forest. Swithland slate quarries, the Whitwick rocks, and Bardon and Beacon hills, would doubtless afford many other species to an ardent investigator, whose time was wholly at his own disposal.

In the following list, those plants which are marked with an asterisk, have been communicated by the same friend, who has also given several new stations for many of the plants which had been noticed by the Compiler.

The species are named, and the arrangement made, from Sir W. J. Hooker's British Flora, the best authority on the subject.

CLASS I.—MONANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

Hippuris vulgaris. Common mare's-tail. Groby pool.

CLASS II.—DIANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

Ligustrum vulgare. Privet. In hedges.

Veronica serpyllifolia. Thyme-leaved speedwell.

—— *scutellata.* Marsh speedwell. Groby pool.

—— *anagallis.* Water speedwell. Ditto.

—— *beccabunga.* Brooklime. Common.

—— *officinalis.* Common speedwell. Dry banks.

—— *montana.* Mountain speedwell. Moist woods.

—— *chamadrys.* Germander speedwell. Common.

—— *hederifolia.* Ivy-leaved speedwell. Common.

* —— *agrestis.* Green procumbent field speedwell; varying with ciliated or hairy fruit. Common.

—— *polita.* Grey procumbent field speedwell. Common.

—— *arvensis.* Wall speedwell. Common.

Pinguicula vulgaris. Common Butterwort. Near the reservoir, Swannington, very sparingly.

- Lycopus europæus*. Common gipsywort, or water horehound. Groby pool, Rothley, &c.
Common.
- Circæa lutetiana*. Common enchanter's nightshade. Woods.
- Fraxinus excelsior*. Common ash.
- Lemna trisulca*. Ivy-leaved duckweed. In ponds at Groby, Osgathorpe, and Loughborough.
- *minor*. Lesser duckweed. In ponds. Common.
- * ——— *gibba*. Loughborough.

DIGYNIA.

- Anthoxanthum odoratum*. Sweet-scented vernal grass. Common.

CLASS III.—TRIANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- Valeriana dioica*. Small marsh valerian. Ditches and marshy meadows.
- *officinalis*. Great wild valerian. Ditto.
- * *Fedia olitoria*. Corn fields about Thringstone.
- * —— *dentata*. Ditto.
- Iris pseudacorus*. Yellow water iris, or corn flag. Groby pool.
- Scirpus lacustris*. Lake club-rush, or bull-rush. Groby pool, Loughborough, and Rothley Temple.
- *setaceus*. Bristle-stalked club-rush, or bull-rush.
- *sylvaticus*. Wood club-rush. Sheet-hedges wood, Loughborough, Rothley, &c.
- Eleocharis palustris*. Creeping spike-rush. Groby pool.
- *acicularis*. Least spike-rush. Ditto.
- *fluitans*. Floating spike-rush. In shallow ponds.
- Eriophorum angustifolium*. Common cotton-grass. Groby pool, and near Kite-hill.
- *pubescens*.† Groby pool.
- Nardus stricta*. Mat-grass. Moors and heaths.

DIGYNIA.

- Alopecurus pratensis*. Meadow foxtail. Common.
- *agrestis*. Slender foxtail. Cultivated fields.
- *geniculatis*. Floating foxtail. In wet and marshy places.
- Phalaris arundinacea*. Reed canary-grass. Groby pool. Common.
- Phleum pratense*. Common cat's-tail, Timothy grass. Common.
- * —— *nodosum*. Near Pocket gate, &c.
- Milium effusum*. Spreading millet-grass. In woods.
- Calamagrostis epigejos*. Wood small reed. In woods. Rare.
- Agrostis vulgaris*. Fine bent-grass. Common.
- *alba*. Marsh bent-grass. Pocket gate. Common.
- Catabrosa aquatica*. Water whorl-grass. Groby pool and Gracedieu.
- Aira cæspitosa*. Turfy hair-grass. Common.
- *flexuosa*. Waved hair-grass. Heaths.

† Found at Swannington with shorter hairs, and blacker glumes. This seems to be the plant which has been mistaken by various Botanists for *Eriophorum gracile*.—C. B.

- Aira caryophylla*. Silvery hair-grass. Barren grounds.
 — *præcox*. Early hair-grass. Ditto.
 — *cristata*. Local.
- Melica uniflora*. Wood melic-grass. Shady woods.
 — *carulea*. Purple melic-grass. Boggy heaths.
- Holcus mollis*. Creeping soft-grass. Common.
 — *lanatus*. Meadow soft-grass. Common.
- Arrhenatherum avenaceum*. Common oat-like grass. Hedges. Common.
- Poa aquatica*. Reed meadow-grass. Groby pool, and Osgathorpe.
 — *fluitans*. Floating meadow-grass. Common.
 — *rigida*. Hard meadow-grass. Barren grounds, Gracedieu, &c.
 — *compressa*. Flat-stemmed meadow-grass. On dry walls, Sheepshed.
 — *trivialis*. Roughish meadow-grass. Common.
 — *pratensis*. Smooth-stalked meadow-grass. Common.
 — *annua*. Annual meadow-grass. Common.
 — *memoralis*. Wood meadow-grass. In woods.
 * — *distans*. Distant meadow-grass. Thringstone and Cloud wood; differing from the marine form.
- Triodia decumbens*. Decumbent heath-grass. Heathy pastures.
- Brizia media*. Common quaking-grass. Common.
- Dactylis glomerata*. Rough cock's-foot grass. Common.
- Cynosurus cristatus*. Crested dog's-tail grass. Common.
- Festuca ovina*. Sheep's fescue-grass. Elevated pastures and hills.
 — *duriuscula*. Hard fescue-grass. Common.
 — *bromoides*. Barren fescue-grass. On walls.
 — *lohiacea*. Spiked fescue-grass. Meadows.
 — *pratensis*. Meadow fescue-grass. Common.
- Bromus giganteus*. Tall brome-grass. Shady woods.
 — *asper*. Hairy wood brome-grass. Ditto.
 — *sterilis*. Barren brome-grass. Ditto.
 — *mollis*. Soft brome-grass. Common.
 * — *racemosus*. Thringstone and other places. Not rare.
 * — *arvensis*. Near Loughborough.
- Avena fatua*. Wild oat. Corn-fields, Thringstone. Not plentiful.
 — *pubescens*. Downy oat. Pastures.
 — *flavescens*. Yellow oat. Ditto.
- Arundo phragmites*. Common reed. Groby pool.
- Hordeum murinum*. Wall barley. Common.
 — *pratense*. Meadow barley. Common.
- Triticum caninum*. Fibrous-rooted wheat-grass. Woods and banks.
 — *repens*. Creeping wheat-grass, or couch-grass. Common.
- Brachypodium sylvaticum*. Slender false brome-grass. Woods.
- Lolium perenne*. Perennial darnel, or rye-grass. Common.

TRIGYNIA.

Montia fontana. Water blinks, or water chickweed. Rills and wet places.

CLASS IV.—TETRANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- Dipsacus sylvestris*. Wild teasel. Road sides and hedges, near Groby.
- * ——— *pilosus*. Small teasel. Near Osgathorpe.
- Scabiosa succisa*. Devil's-bit scabious. Meadows and pastures.
- * ——— *arvensis*. Loughborough, &c.
- Galium verum*. Yellow bed-straw. Common.
- *cruciatum*. Crosswort bed-straw. Common.
- *palustre*. White water bed-straw. In ditches.
- * ——— *uliginosum*. White water bed-straw. Sides of ditches.
- *saxatile*. Smooth heath bed-straw. Heaths. Common.
- *aparine*. Goose-grass, or cleavers. Common.
- * ——— *mollugo*. Great hedge bed-straw. Thringstone and Garendon. Not uncommon.
- Asperula odorata*. Sweet woodruff. Woods, Gracedieu.
- Sherardia arvensis*. Blue sherardia. Corn-fields.
- Plantago major*. Greater plantain. Common.
- *media*. Hoary plantain. Common.
- *lanceolata*. Ribwort plantain. Common.
- *coronopus*. Buck's-horn plantain. Iveshead, Lower Blackbrook, &c.
- Cornus sanguinea*. Wild cornel, or dog-wood. Woods and hedges.
- Parietaria officinalis*. Common pellitory-of-the-wall. Bradgate ruins, Gracedieu, &c.
- Alchemilla vulgaris*. Common lady's mantle. Pastures.
- *arvensis*. Field lady's mantle, or parsley-piert. Common.
- Sanguisorba officinalis*. Great burnet. Meadows.

TETRAGYNIA.

- Ilex aquifolium*. Common holly. Common.
- Potamogeton pectinatus*. Fennel-leaved pond-weed. Groby pool. Common.
- *gramineus*. Grassy pond-weed. Ditto. Rare.
- * ——— *zosterifolius*. Grass wrack-like pond-weed. Rothley.
- * ——— *oblongus*. Swamp at the source of the rivulet, running from Kite-hill to the Reservoir.
- * ——— *densus*. Opposite-leaved pond-weed. Common.
- *crispus*. Curled pond-weed. Ponds.
- *perfoliatus*. Perfoliate pond-weed. Groby pool, Loughborough, &c.
- *lucens*. Shining pond-weed. Ditto.
- *natans*. Broad-leaved pond-weed. Common.
- Sagina procumbens*. Procumbent Pearlwort. Common.
- *apetala*. Annual small-flowered pearlwort. Common.
- Mænchia erecta*. Upright mænchia. Banks of Groby pool, Reservoir, and near the Oaks Chapel.
- Radiola millegrana*. Thyme-leaved flax-seed. Near the Reservoir; also near Whitwick, by the road side.

CLASS V.—PENTANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- * *Echium vulgare*. Viper's bugloss. Gracedieu.
- * *Pulmonaria officinalis*. Lung-wort. I have received a specimen said to be from Gracedieu.

- * *Lycopsis arvensis*. Field bugloss. Beaumanor and Gracedieu.
Lithospermum officinale. Common gromwell. Woods. Not common here except at Gracedieu.
 ——— *arvense*. Corn-fields. Local.
Symphytum officinale. Common comfrey. Groby pool, Gracedieu, &c.
Myosotis palustris. Great water scorpion-grass, or forget-me-not. Moist ditches and sides of ponds. Groby pool. Common.
 ——— *crispitosa*. Tufted water scorpion-grass. Gracedieu, and the Reservoir.
 ——— *arvensis*. Field scorpion-grass. Common.
 ——— *versicolor*. Yellow and blue scorpion-grass. Dry banks.
Cynoglossum officinale. Common hound's-tongue. Woods.
Anagallis arvensis. Scarlet pimpernel, or poor man's weather-glass. Corn-fields.
 ——— *tenella*. Bog pimpernel. Groby pool, and in boggy meadows.
Lysimachia vulgaris. Great yellow loose-strife. Meadow in front of the new Monastery.
 ——— *nemorum*. Yellow pimpernel, or wood loose-strife. Woods.
 ——— *nummularia*. Creeping loose-strife, moneywort, or herb twopence. Marshy places
Primula vulgaris. Common primrose. Common.
 ——— *elatior*. Oxlip. Woods.
 ——— *veris*. Cowslip. Common.
Menyanthes trifoliata. Common buck-bean, or marsh trefoil. Groby pool. Rare.
Erythraea centaureium. Common centaury. Dry pastures, Thringstone. Sparingly.
Hyoscyamus niger. Common henbane. Bradgate ruins, and Gracedieu.
Atropa belladonna. Common dwale, or deadly nightshade. Near Gracedieu.
* *Verbascum thapsus*. Great mullein. Gracedieu.
Solanum dulcamara. Woody nightshade, or bitter-sweet. Hedges.
* ——— *nigrum*. On the Leicester side of the Forest.
Convolvulus arvensis. Small bind-weed. Corn-fields and hedge banks.
 ——— *sepium*. Great bind-weed. Hedges.
Jasione montana. Annual sheep's-bit, or sheep's scabious. Dry heathy pastures.
Campanula rotundifolia. Round-leaved bellflower, or harebell. Common.
 ——— *patula*. Spreading bellflower. Lane near Buddon wood. Rare.
 ——— *latifolia*. Giant bellflower. Woods. Sheet-hedges wood and Gracedieu wood.
Lonicera periclymenum. Common honeysuckle, or woodbine. Common.
Rhamnus catharticus. Common buck-thorn. Woods. Gracedieu.
* ——— *frangula*. Alder buck-thorn. Pocket-gate.
Euonymus europæus. Common spindle-tree. Woods. Cloud wood.
Viola hirta. Hairy violet. Near the Reservoir, and Cloud wood.
 ——— *odorata*. Sweet violet. Common.
 ——— *palustris*. Marsh violet. Bardon hill, and Reservoir.
 ——— *canina*. Dog's violet. Common.
* ——— Var. *flavicornis*. Yellow-spurred violet. Heaths. Common.
 ——— *tricolor*. Pansy violet, or heart's-ease. Common.
Ribes rubrum. Red currant. Woods.
 ——— *grossularia*. Common gooseberry. Woods.
* ——— *nigrum*. Black currant. In a hedge at Thringstone, not truly wild, as is neither *R. rubrum* nor *grossularia* in this county.

DIGYNIA.

- * *Gentiana amarella*. Field gentian. Gracedieu.
 * ——— *pneumonanthe*. Near Whittle hill, at the edge of a bog.
 * *Cuscuta epithymum*. Forest rocks, near Gracedieu, growing on heath; called, from the threads by which it wraps itself about other plants, "*Devil's guts*."
Hydrocotyle vulgaris. Marsh pennywort. Groby pool, and marshes about the Whitwick rocks.
Sanicula europæa. Wood sanicle. Woods.
Helosciadium nodiflorum. Procumbent marsh-wort. Rivulets and water-courses.
 ——— *repens*. Creeping marsh-wort. Rivulets and water-courses.
Nison anomum. Hedge bastard stone-parsley. Hedge banks, Belton, &c.
Ægopodium podagraria. Gout-weed, or herb gerarde. Waste places and ruins. Bradgate.
Bunium flexuosum. Common earth-nut. Pastures. Common.
Pimpinella saxifraga. Common burnet saxifrage. Dry pastures.
 ——— *magna*. Greater burnet saxifrage. Near Groby pool.
Sium angustifolium. Narrow-leaved water parsnip. Ditches and water-courses, Rothley.
Oenanthe fistulosa. Common water-drop-wort. Ditches. Common.
 ——— *peucedanifolia*. Sulphur-weed water-drop-wort. Groby pool.
 ——— *phellandrium*. Fine-leaved water-drop-wort. Groby pool and Rothley Temple.
Æthusa cynapium. Common fool's parsley. Garden weed.
Silvaus pratensis. Meadow pepper saxifrage. Meadows.
Angelica sylvestris. Wild angelica. Marshy woods.
Pastinaca sativa. Common wild parsnip. Near Groby, and Bardon.
Heracleum sphondylium. Common cow-parsnip, or hog-weed. Common.
Daucus carota. Wild carrot. Near Groby.
Torilis anthriscus. Upright hedge-parsley. Common.
 ——— *nodosa*. Knotted hedge-parsley. Gracedieu. Common.
 * ——— *infesta*. Spreading hedge-parsley. Common.
Scandix pecten. Shepherd's needle. Corn-fields.
Anthriscus sylvestris. Wild beaked parsley. Common.
 * ——— *rulgaris*. Common beaked parsley. Waste ground. Not rare.
Cheerophyllum temulentum. Rough chevil. Common.
Conium maculatum. Common henlock. Common.
Chenopodium polyspermum. Many-seeded goose-foot. Banks of Groby pool.
 * ——— *acutifolium*. Cossington. A variety of *C. polyspermum*.
 * ——— *olidum*. Cole-Orton.
 * ——— *ficifolium*. Cole-Orton.
 ——— *bonus Henricus*. Mercury goose-foot. Waste places.
 ——— *rubrum*. Red goose-foot. Dughills, and under walls.
 ——— *album*. White goose-foot. Common.
Ulmus campestris. Common small-leaved elm. Common.
 ——— *montana*. Broad-leaved, or wych elm. Common.
 * ——— *suberosa*. Cork-barked elm. Common.
Viburnum opulus. Common guelder rose, or water elder. Woods.

- Sambucus ebulus*. Dwarf elder, or danewort. Near Beaumanor.
 ——— *nigra*. Common elder. Common.

TETRAGYNIA.

- Parnassia palustris*. Grass of Parnassus. Groby pool, and Tin meadows.

PENTAGYNIA.

- Linum catharticum*. Purging flax. Common.
 * ——— *perenne*. Scattered plants in the neighbourhood of Thringstone.

HEXAGYNIA.

- Drosera rotundifolia*. Round-leaved sundew. Near the Reservoir.

POLYGYNIA.

- * *Myosurus minimus*. Common mouse-tail. Sheepshed; one specimen.

CLASS VI.—HEXANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- Berberis vulgaris*. Common barberry. Woods. Not a native.
Peplis portula. Water purslane. Marshy places. Whitwick, &c.
Galanthus nivalis. Snowdrop. Bradgate ruins, and Gracedieu wood.
Narcissus pseudo-narcissus. Common daffodil. Bradgate ruins, and Gracedieu.
Convallaria majalis. Lily-of-the-valley. Gracedieu wood and Buddon wood.
 * ——— *multiflora*. Solomon's seal. A specimen was brought me, along with *Polygonum bistorta*, and other plants, from White-horse wood; but I could never find it there.
 * *Fritillaria meleagris*. Fritillary. Wörthington.
 * *Acorus calamus*. Sweet sedge. Between Loughborough and Zouch mills.
Allium vineale. Crow garlic. Near Groby pool, Thringstone, and Gracedieu.
 ——— *ursinum*. Bear's garlic. Sheet-hedges wood.
Hyacinthus-non-scriptus. Wild hyacinth, or bluebell. Woods.
Juncus glaucus. Hard rush. Common.
 ——— *effusus*. Soft rush. Common.
 ——— *conglomeratus*. Common rush. Common.
 ——— *acutiflorus*. Sharp-flowered jointed rush. Common.
 ——— *lampocarpus*. Shining-fruited jointed rush. Common.
 ——— *uliginosus*. Lesser bog jointed rush. Common.
 * ——— ——— Var. *subverticillatus*. Charnwood heath.
 ——— *compressus*. Round-fruited rush. Common.
 ——— *bufonius*. Toad rush. Common.
 ——— *squarrosus*. Heath rush. Heathy bogs.
Luzula sylvatica. Great hairy wood rush. Sheet-hedges wood.
 ——— *pilosa*. Broad-leaved hairy wood rush. Sheet-hedges wood.
 ——— *campestris*. Field wood rush. Pastures.
 * ——— *congesta*. Whitwick rocks; a variety of the last.

TRIGYNIA.

- Rumex crispus*. Curled dock. Common.
 ——— *sanguineus*. Green-veined dock. Gracedieu wood. Common.
 ——— *acutus*. Sharp dock. Common.
 ——— *obtusifolius*. Broad-leaved dock. Common.
 ——— *maritimus*. Golden dock. Banks of Groby pool.
 ——— *acetosa*. Common sorrel. Common.
 ——— *acetosella*. Sheep's sorrel. Common.
 * ——— *hydrolapathum*. Great water dock.
Triglochin palustre. Marsh arrow grass. Groby pool, Gracedieu, &c.

POLYGYNIA.

- Alisma plantago*. Greater water plantain. Ponds, and margins of streams.

CLASS VIII.—OCTANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- Acer pseudo-platanus*. Greater maple, or sycamore.
 ——— *campestre*. Common maple. Hedges.
Erica tetralix. Cross-leaved heath. Common.
 ——— *cinerea*. Fine-leaved heath. Roecliff and Sharpley. Not common elsewhere on the Forest.
Calluna vulgaris. Common ling. Common.
Vaccinium myrtillus. Bilberry, or whortle-berry. Woods.
Epilobium hirsutum. Great hairy willow-herb. Common.
 ——— *parviflorum*. Small-flowered hairy willow-herb. Common.
 ——— *montanum*. Broad smooth-leaved willow-herb. Common.
 ——— *tetragonum*. Square-stalked willow-herb. Groby pool.
 ——— *palustre*. Narrow-leaved marsh willow-herb. Groby pool.
Daphne laureola. Spurge laurel. Sheet-hedges wood.

TRIGYNIA,

- Polygonum bistorta*. Bistort, or snake-weed. Meadow near Newtown Linford Church.
 ——— *aviculare*. Knot-grass. Common.
 * ——— *aviculare*. Several varieties occur about Thringstone, one of which is quite prostrate, with the stipules very much torn.
 ——— *convolvulus*. Climbing buck-wheat. Common.
 ——— *amphibium*. Amphibious persicaria. Groby pool.
 ——— *persicaria*. Spotted persicaria. Common.
 ——— *hydropiper*. Biting persicaria. Groby pool.

TETRAGYNIA.

- Paris quadrifolia*. Common herb Paris. Sheet-hedges wood, Gracedieu, &c.
Adoxa moschatellina. Tuberous moschatell. Hedge banks and shady places.

CLASS IX.—ENNEANDRIA HEXAGYNIA.

Butomus umbellatus. Flowering rush. Groby pool and Rothley Temple.

CLASS X.—DECANDRIA DIGYNIA.

Scleranthus annuus. Annual knawel. Corn-fields.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium. Alternate-leaved golden saxifrage. Near Groby mill.

———— *oppositifolium*. Common golden saxifrage. Near Groby mill, Gracedieu, &c.

Saxifraga granulata. White meadow saxifrage. Meadows.

———— *tridactylites*. Rue-leaved saxifrage. On walls and rocks.

Dianthus deltoides. Maiden pink. Rocks near Groby.

TRIGYNIA.

Stellaria media. Common chickweed, or stitchwort. Common.

———— *holostea*. Greater stitchwort. Common.

———— *graminea*. Lesser stitchwort. Common.

———— *glauca*. Glaucous marsh stitchwort. Groby pool.

———— *uliginosa*. Bog stitchwort. In rills and ditches.

Arenaria trineris. Three-nerved sandwort. Shady woods, and under hedges.

———— *serpyllifolia*. Thyme-leaved sandwort. Rocks.

———— *rubra*. Purple sandwort. Rocks.

PENTAGYNIA.

Cotyledon umbilicus. Wall pennywort. Swithland slate quarries.

Sedum acre. Biting stone-crop, or wall pepper. Walls and rocks.

———— *reflexum*. Crooked yellow stone-crop. Walls at Bradgate, and Gracedieu Abbey.

Oxalis acetosella. Common wood sorrel. Woods.

Agrostemma githago. Corn cockle. Corn-fields.

Lychnis flos-cuculi. Meadow lychnis, or ragged Robin. Common.

———— *dioica*. Red or white campion. Common.

Cerastium vulgatum. Broad-leaved mouse-ear chickweed. Common.

———— *viscosum*. Narrow-leaved mouse-ear chickweed. Common.

*———— *semidecandrum*. Little mouse-ear chickweed. Common.

———— *aquaticum*. Water chickweed. Common.

Spergula arvensis. Corn spurrey. Corn-fields. Common.

———— *nodosa*. Knotted spurrey. Groby pool, and Gracedieu.

CLASS XI.—DODECANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

Lythrum salicaria. Spiked purple loose-strife. Groby pool, and Loughborough.

DIGYNIA.

Agrimonia eupatoria. Common agrimony. Common.

TRIGYNIA.

Reseda luteola. Dyer's rocket; yellow weed. Cloud wood lime quarries.

DODECAGYNIA.

Sempervivum tectorum. Common house leek. Cottage roofs.

CLASS XII.—ICOSANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

Prunus insititia. Wild bullace-tree. Hedges.

——— *spinosa*. Black thorn, or sloe. Hedges.

——— *cerasus*. Wild cherry. Woods.

PENTAGYNIA.

Cratægus oxyacantha. Hawthorn, or May. Common.

Pyrus malus. Crab. Common.

——— *aucuparia*. Quicken tree, mountain ash, or rowan tree. Common.

Spiræa ulmaria. Meadow-sweet. Queen of the meadows. Common.

POLYGYNIA.

Rosa spinosissima. Burnet-leaved rose. Rocks near Groby, and Gracedieu wood.

——— *canina*. Common dog rose; including several varieties. Common.

——— *arvensis*. Trailing dog rose. Common.

*——— *tomentosa*. Osgathorpe.

Rubus idæus. Raspberry. Woods.

——— *fruticosus*. Common bramble, or blackberry. Common.

——— *corylifolius*. Hazel-leaved bramble. Common.

——— *casius*. Dewberry. Common.

*——— *Koëhleri*. Koeler's berry. Very common about Thringstone, and very variable.

*——— *rharnifolius*. Thringstone, &c.

*——— *rharnifolius*. Var. *cordifolius*. Ditto.

*——— *suberectus*. Swannington, &c. This part of the county seems very rich in the genus; probably another species or two might be added to the list, but their extreme difficulty of determination is a sufficient reason for not doing so.

Fragaria vesca. Wood strawberry. Common.

Potentilla anserina. Silver weed. Common.

——— *argentea*. Hoary cinquefoil. Rocks near Groby pool, and Buddon wood.

——— *reptans*. Common creeping cinquefoil. Common.

——— *fragariastrum*. Strawberry-leaved cinquefoil. Common.

Tormentilla officinalis. Common tormentil. Common.

Geum urbanum. Common avens. Common.

*——— *rivale*. Brook avens. Swannington.

CLASS XIII.—POLYANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

- Papaver argemone*. Long prickly-headed poppy. Corn-fields, Gracedieu and Rothley.
 ——— *rhas.* Common red poppy. Ditto.
 * ——— *dubium*. Doubtful poppy. Ditto.
Chelidonium majus. Common celandine. Bradgate ruins.
Tilia europea. Common lime, or linden-tree.
 ——— *parvifolia*. Small-leaved linden-tree. Woods.
Nymphaea alba. Great white water lily. Groby pool, and the Soar, near Kegworth.
Nuphar lutea. Yellow water lily. Groby pool, Rothley, &c. Common.

POLYGYNIA.

- Thalictrum flavum*. Common meadow rue. Groby pool.
Anemone nemorosa. Wood anemone. Common.
Ranunculus aquatilis. Water crow-foot. In ponds and streams.
 * ——— *fluitans*. Rothley; and probably elsewhere.
 * ——— *circinnatus*. Ditto.—Both this and *R. fluitans* have been falsely supposed varieties of *R. aquatilis*.
 ——— *hederaceus*. Ivy crow-foot. In ponds and streams.
 ——— *lingua*. Great spearwort. Groby pool.
 ——— *flammula*. Lesser spearwort. Ditto.
 ——— *ficaria*. Pilewort crow-foot. Common.
 ——— *auricomus*. Wood crow-foot. Common.
 ——— *sceleratus*. Celery-leaved crow-foot. Ditches and pools.
 ——— *acris*. Upright meadow crow-foot. Common.
 ——— *repens*. Creeping crow-foot. Common.
 ——— *bulbosus*. Bulbous crow-foot. Common.
 ——— *hirsutus*. Pale hairy crow-foot. Near Groby, and Sheepshed.
 ——— *arcensis*. Corn crow-foot. Corn-fields.
Caltha palustris. Common marsh marigold. Common.

CLASS XIV.—DIDYNAMIA GYMNOSPERMIA.

- * *Mentha sylvestris*. Not very uncommon.
 ——— *hirsuta*. Hairy mint. Common.
 ——— *arvensis*. Corn mint. Common.
 ——— *pulegium*. Pennyroyal. Banks of Groby pool.
Thymus serpyllum. Wild thyme. Common.
Origanum vulgare. Common marjoram. Bradgate ruins, and Cloud wood.
Teucrium scorodonia. Wood germander, or sage. Woods.
Ajuga reptans. Common bugle. Common.
Ballota nigra. Black horehound. Common.
Galeobdolon luteum. Yellow weasel-snout. Woods near Groby. Common.
Galeopsis ladanum. Red hemp nettle. Swithland slate-pits.

- Galeopsis tetrahit*. Common hemp nettle. Corn-fields.
Lamium album. White dead nettle. Common.
 ——— *purpureum*. Red dead nettle. Common.
 * ——— *incisum*. Loughborough.
 * ——— *amplexicaule*. Loughborough, and Sheepshed.
Betonica officinalis. Wood betony. Woods. Common.
Stachys sylvatica. Hedge wound-wort. Common.
 * ——— *ambigua*. Ambiguous wound-wort. This has been some time known as a native of this part of Leicestershire, but is very doubtful as a species; probably a variety of *S. palustris*. I have not found it, but have some specimens from the neighbourhood.—(Vide *Smith's Flora*.)
 ——— *palustris*. Marsh wound-wort. Groby pool.
 * ——— *arvensis*. Thringstone.
 * *Nepeta cataria*. Gracedieu.
Glechoma hederacea. Ground ivy. Common.
Marrubium vulgare. White horehound. Ives Head.
Clinopodium vulgare. Wild basil. Common.
Prunella vulgaris. Self-heal. Common.
Scutellaria galericulata. Common skull-cap. Groby pool.
 ——— *minor*. Lesser skull-cap. Beacon hill, Ives Head, and Charnwood Heath.

ANGIOSPERMIA.

- Bartsia odontites*. Red bartsia. Common.
Euphrasia officinalis. Common eye-bright. Common.
Rhinanthus crista galli. Yellow rattle. Common.
Melampyrum pratense. Common yellow cow-wheat. Woods.
Lathraea squamaria. Greater tooth-wort. Gracedieu wood.
Pedicularis palustris. Marsh red rattle. Groby pool.
 ——— *sylvatica*. Dwarf red rattle. Moist heaths.
Antirrhinum majus. Great snapdragon. Bradgate ruins.
Linaria cymbalaria. Ivy-leaved toad flax. Ditto.
 ——— *vulgaris*. Yellow toad flax. Near Gracedieu.
Scrophularia nodosa. Knotted fig-wort. Woods.
 ——— *aquatica*. Water fig-wort, or betony. Groby pool.
Digitalis purpurea. Purple foxglove. Common.

CLASS XV.—TETRADYNAMIA SILICULOSA.

- Coronopus ruellii*. Common wart-cress, or Swine's-cress. Waste grounds.
Capsella bursa pastoris. Common shepherd's-purse. Common.
Teesdalia nudicaulis. Naked-stalked teesdalia. Rocks. Not very uncommon.
 * *Lepidium campestre*. Common pepper-wort. Thringstone.
 * *Cochlearia armoracia*. Horseradish. In waste grounds here and there; not indigenous.
Draba verna. Common whitlow-grass. Common.

- **Camelina sativa*. Common gold-of-pleasure. Near Thringstone, in 1833; since extinct.
 **Alyssum calycinum*. Between Broad and Chamber hills, in 1836; since extinct.

SILIQUOSA.

- Cardamine amara*. Large-flowered bitter cress. Near Groby pool, and Gracedieu.
 ——— *pratensis*. Common bitter cress. Common.
 ——— *hirsuta*.† Hairy bitter cress. Common.
Barbarea vulgaris. Yellow rocket. Common.
Nasturtium officinale. Water cress. Common.
 ——— *terrestre*. Marsh nasturtium. Groby pool, and Rothley Temple.
 ——— *amphibium*. Amphibious nasturtium. Groby pool. Common.
Sisymbrium officinale. Common hedge mustard. Common.
 ——— *thalianum*. Common swale cress. Common.
 * ——— *Sophia*. Flax weed. Cole-Orton.
Erysimum alliaria. Jack-by-the-hedge, or garlic treacle-mustard. Common.
Cheiranthus cheiri. Common wall-flower. Bradgate ruins, and Gracedieu.
Brassica napus. Wild navew, rape, or cole-seed. Corn-fields. Common.
 * ——— *rapa*. Turnip. Naturalized.
 **Raphanus raphanistrum*. Wild radish. Swannington, 1841.
Sinapis arvensis. Wild mustard, or charlock. Corn-fields. Common.

CLASS XVI.—MONADELPHIA PENTANDRIA.

- Erodium cicutarium*. Hemlock, or stork's-bill. Near Groby pool, and Gracedieu.

DECANDRIA.

- Geranium pratense*. Blue meadow crane's-bill. Near Groby, Thringstone, &c.
 ——— *lucidum*. Shining crane's-bill. Near Ulverscroft ruins, and Buddon wood wall.
 ——— *Robertianum*. Herb Robert, or stinking crane's-bill. Common.
 ——— *molle*. Dove's-foot crane's-bill. Common.
 ——— *pusillum*. Small-flowered crane's-bill. Common.
 ——— *dissectum*. Jagged-leaved crane's-bill. Common.

POLYANDRIA.

- Malva sylvestris*. Common mallow. Common.
 ——— *rotundifolia*. Dwarf mallow. Common.
 ——— *moschata*. Musk mallow. Near Groby, and elsewhere. Not uncommon.

CLASS XVII.—DIADELPHIA HEXANDRIA.

- Corydalis claviculata*. White climbing corydalis. Bardon hill; abundant on Whitwick range.
Fumaria officinalis. Common fumitory. Corn-fields.

† Two species, both common, are comprehended by British Botanists under this name.—*C. B.*

OCTANDRIA.

Polygala vulgaris. Common milk-wort. Common.

DECANDRIA.

Ulex europæus. Common furze, whin, or gorse.

— *nanus*. Dwarf furze. Heaths.

Genista tinctoria. Dyer's green-weed, or woad-waxen. Heaths.

— *anglica*. Needle green-weed, or petty whin. Heaths.

Cytisus scoparius. Common broom. Heaths.

Ononis asperis. Common rest-harrow. Heaths, Thringstone.

Anthyllis vulneraria. Common kidney-vetch, or lady's fingers. Near Gracedieu. †

Orobus tuberosus. Tuberosus orobus. Woods.

Lathyrus pratensis. Meadow vetchling. Common.

Vicia cracca. Tufted vetch. Common.

— *sativa*. Common vetch. Common.

— *angustifolia*. Narrow-leaved crimson vetch. Thringstone. Common.

— *sepium*. Bush vetch. Common.

Ervum hirsutum. Hairy tare. Common.

— *tetraspermum*. Smooth tare. Swannington. Common.

Ornithopus perpusillus. Common bird's-foot. Common.

Melilotus officinalis. Common yellow melilot. Common.

Trifolium repens. White trefoil, or Dutch clover. Common.

— *pratense*. Common purple trefoil. Common.

— *medium*. Zigzag trefoil. Thringstone. Common.

— *arvense*. Hare's-foot trefoil. Near Groby pool, Thringstone, and Gracedieu.

— *fragiferum*. Strawberry-headed trefoil. Near Groby.

* — *subterraneum*. Subterranean trefoil. Gracedieu.

— *procumbens*. Hop trefoil. Near Groby.

— *filiforme*. Lesser yellow trefoil. Common.

* — *striatum*. Striated trefoil. Lower Black-brook, and Swithland.

Lotus corniculatus. Common bird's-foot trefoil. Common.

— *major*. Greater bird's-foot trefoil. Common.

* — *tenuis*. Thringstone, in the Parsonage field, 1833; it has since disappeared.

Medicago lupulina. Black medick, or nonsuch. Common.

* — *maculata*. In a field against the rocks at Thringstone.

CLASS XVIII.—POLYADELPHIA POLYANDRIA.

Hypericum quadrangulum. Square-stalked St. John's wort. Sides of rivulets and water-courses.

— *perforatum*. Common perforated St. John's wort. Common.

— *humifusum*. Trailing St. John's wort. Common.

— *hirsutum*. Hairy St. John's wort. Common.

— *pulchrum*. Small upright St. John's wort. Heaths.

† I have not been able to find it there.—C. B.

CLASS XIX.—SYNGENESIA ÆQUALIS.

- Trajopogon pratensis*. Yellow goat's-beard. Near Groby, Thringstone, &c.
Sonchus arvensis. Corn sowthistle. Corn-fields. Common.
 ——— *oleraceus*. Common sowthistle. Common.
 * ——— *asper*. Rough sowthistle. Confounded with the last. Common.
Lactuca virosa. Strong-scented lettuce. Gracedieu lime-works.
Prenanthes muralis. Ivy-leaved wall lettuce. Swithland slate-pits.
Leontodon taraxacum. Common dandelion. Common.
Apargia hispida. Rough hawk-bit. Common.
 ——— *autumnalis*. Autumnal hawk-bit. Common.
Thrinicia hirta. Hairy thrincia. Gravelly places.
Hieracium pilosella. Common mouse-ear hawk-weed. Common.
 ——— *sylvaticum*. Wood hawk-weed. Woods, and rocks at Thringstone, &c.
 ——— *paludosum*. Succory-leaved hawk-weed. Gracedieu wood.
 ——— *subaudum*. Shrubby broad-leaved hawk-weed. Woods.
 ——— *umbellatum*. Narrow-leaved hawk-weed. Woods. Bardon.
Crepis tectorum.† Smooth hawk's-beard. Common.
Hypocheris radicata. Long-rooted cat's-ear. Common.
Lapsana communis. Common nipple-wort. Common.
Arctium lappa. Common burdock. Common.
Serratula tinctoria. Common saw-wort. Common.
Carduus nutans. Musk-thistle. Near Groby.
 * ——— *marianus*. Milk-thistle. About Gracedieu; a single plant, occasionally.
Cnicus lanceolatus. Spear plume-thistle. Common.
 ——— *palustris*. Marsh plume-thistle. Common.
 ——— *arvensis*. Creeping plume-thistle. Common.
 ——— *eriphorus*. Woolly-headed plume-thistle. Near Groby, and Cloud wood.
 ——— *pratensis*. Meadow plume-thistle. Bardon hill, and Pocket gate.
 * ——— *acanthium*. Cotton-thistle. I have seen—in Mr. Bloxam's Herbarium, I think—a specimen from Mountsorrel.
Carlina vulgaris. Common carline thistle. Bardon hill.
Bidens tripartita. Trifid bur-marigold. Groby pool.
Eupatorium cannabinum. Common hemp-agrimony. Groby pool, Gracedieu, &c. Common.
Tanacetum vulgare. Common tansy. Near Groby.
Gnaphalium uliginosum. Marsh cud-weed. Common.
 ——— *minimum*. Least cud-weed. Near Groby pool, and Black-brook.
 ——— *germanicum*. Common cud-weed. Common.
 * *Artemisia vulgaris*. Mug-wort. Not uncommon.
 * ——— *absinthium*. Wormwood. Gracedieu.
Erigeron acris. Blue fleabane. Wall near Gracedieu ruins.
Tussilago farfara. Colt's-foot. Common.

† The *Crepis tectorum* of English Botany and British authors is really *C. virens* L.—*C. B.*
 The rare *Crepis biennis* is found in great abundance at Norton juxta Twycross, in this county.

- Petasites vulgaris*. Common butter-bur. Near the mill, Groby pool.
- * ——— *hybrida*. This is merely the fertile plant, but is much rarer than the other form. It has long been known as an inhabitant of the vicinity of the Forest; as at Gracedieu, &c.
- Senecio vulgaris*. Common groundsel. Common.
- *sylvaticus*. Mountain groundsel. Common.
- * ——— *tenuifolius*. Near Black-brook toll-gate.
- *jacobæa*. Common rag-wort. Common.
- *aquaticus*. Marsh rag-wort. Common.
- * *Solidago virgaurea*. Golden rod. Buddon wood.
- Pulicaria dysenterica*. Common fleabane. Common.
- Bellis perennis*. Common daisy. Common.
- Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*. Great white ox-eye. Common.
- * ——— *segetum*. Corn-fields.
- Pyrethrum parthenium*. Common feverfew. Bradgate ruins.
- *inodorum*. Corn feverfew, or scentless May-weed. Common.
- Anthemis cotula*. Stinking camomile. Corn-fields.
- Achillea ptarmica*. Sneeze-wort yarrow. Pastures.
- *millefolium*. Common yarrow, or milfoil. Common.
- Centaurea nigra*. Black knap-weed.
- * ——— *scabiosa*. Near Sheepshed.

CLASS XX.—GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

- Orchis morio*. Green-winged meadow orchis. Common.
- *mascula*. Early purple orchis. Woods.
- *latifolia*. Marsh orchis. Near Groby pool, Gracedieu, &c.
- *maculata*. Spotted palmate orchis. Meadows. Common.
- * ——— *conopsea*. Pocket-gate, Bardon, and Swannington.
- Habenaria viridis*. Green habenaria. Near Thringstone.
- *bifolia*.† Butterfly habenaria. Woods. Bardon, Oakley, and Cloud woods. Rare.
- * *Neottia spiralis*. Lady's tresses. Near Sheepshed. Rare.
- Listera ovata*. Common tway-blade. Woods.
- * ——— *Nidus avis*. Oakley wood, and Cloud wood.
- Epipactis latifolia*. Broad-leaved helleborine. Woods.
- *palustris*. Marsh helleborine. Near Groby pool, and Pocket-gate.

CLASS XXI.—MONÆCIA MONANDRIA.

- Euphorbia helioscopia*. Sun-spurge. Gardens and waste ground.
- *exigua*. Dwarf sun-spurge. Corn-fields.
- *peplus*. Petty sun-spurge. Gardens.
- *amygdaloides*. Wood sun-spurge. Gracedieu wood.
- Callitriche verna*. Vernal water star-wort. Ponds.
- * ——— *platycarpa*. Near Thringstone.
- Zannichellia palustris*. Horned pond-weed. Groby pool.

† The Leicestershire species is not the true *H. bifolia*, but *H. chlorantha*.—C. B.

TRIANDRIA.

- Typha latifolia*. Cat's-tail, or reed-mace. Ponds.
Sparganium ramosum. Branched bur-reed. Ponds.
 ——— *simplex*. Unbranched upright bur-reed. Rothley Temple.
Carex pulicaris. Flea carex, or sedge. Beacon hill.
 — *intermedia*. Soft brown carex. Groby pool.
 — *divulsa*. Grey carex. Moist pastures.
 — *vulpina*. Great carex. Near water-courses.
 — *stellulata*. Little prickly carex. Beacon hill.
 — *oralis*. Oval spiked carex. Pastures.
 * — *remota*. Distant spiked carex. Not uncommon.
 — *sylvatica*. Pendulous wood carex. Woods.
 — *Pseudo-cyperus*. Cyperus-like carex. Groby pool, and Sheepshed.
 — *pallescens*. Pale carex. Meadows, Swannington.
 * — *flava*. Yellow carex. Beacon hill.—Common on wet heathis, as well as a dwarf form, which I suppose is *Carex æderi* of authors.
 — *binervis*. Green-ribbed carex. Beacon hill, and very common on the Whitwick range.
 — *precox*. Vernal carex. Meadows.
 — *pilulifera*. Round-headed carex. Beacon hill.
 — *panicca*. Pink-leaved carex. Common.
 — *recurva*. Glaucous heath carex. Common.
 — *cæspitosa*. Tufted bog carex. Groby pool.
 — *acuta*. Slender spiked carex. Ditto.
 — *paludosa*. Lesser common carex. Ditto.
 — *riparia*. Great common carex. Ditto.
 — *ampullacea*. Slender beaked bottle carex. Groby pool, and Reservoir.
 — *hirta*. Hairy carex. Common.
 — *filiformis*.† Slender-leaved carex. Beacon hill.

TETRANDRIA.

- Littorella lacustris*. Plantain shore-weed. Groby pool.
Alnus glutinosa. Alder. Common.
Urtica urens. Small nettle. Common.
 — *dioica*. Great nettle. Common.

PENTANDRIA.

- * *Bryonia dioica*. Red bryony. Mountsorrel, &c.

POLYANDRIA.

- * *Ceratophyllum demersum*. Horn-wort. Rothley Temple.

† *Carex paniculata*, *pendula*, and *strigosa*, are found in woods near Staunton Harold.

- Myriophyllum spicatum*. † Spiked water milfoil. Groby pool, Gracedieu, &c.
Sagittaria sagittifolia. Common arrow-head. Groby pool, Rothley, &c.
Arum maculatum. Cuckoo pint, or wake Robin. Common.
Quercus robur. Oak. Common.
 *—— *sessiliflora*. Sessile fruited oak.
Fagus sylvatica. Beech. Common.
Betula alba. Birch. Common.
Carpinus betulus. Hornbeam.
Corylus avellana. Common hazel nut. Common.

CLASS XXII.—DICECIA DIANDRIA.

- Salix vitellina*. Yellow willow, or golden osier. Woods.
 — *fusca var. repens*. Dwarf silky willow. Beacon hill, and Bardon.
 — *viminalis*. Common osier. Common.
 — *aquatica*. Water willow. Woods.
 — *aurita*. Round-eared willow. Woods.
 — *caprea*. Great round-leaved willow. Woods.
 *—— *helix*. Loughborough.
 *—— *fragilis*. Common.
 *—— *triandra*. Loughborough.
 *—— *alba*. Common.
 *—— *acuminata*. Common.

TRIANDRIA.

- Empetrum nigrum*. Black crowberry, or craneberry. Heaths.
Ruscus aculeatus. Butcher's broom. Sheet-hedges wood.

PENTANDRIA.

- Humulus lupulus*. Common hop. Hedges near Groby, Thringstone, &c.

HEXANDRIA.

- Tamus communis*. Common black bryony. Hedges.

OCTANDRIA.

- Populus alba*. Great white poplar, or abele. Woods.
 — *tremula*. Aspen. Woods.
 — *nigra*. Black poplar. Woods.

ENNEANDRIA.

- Mercurialis perennis*. Perennial, or dog's mercury. Woods.

† *M. alterniflorum* is found in this county, in a pond adjoining the road side between Twycross and Appleby.

MONADELPHIA.

Taxus baccata. Common yew.

CLASS XXIII.—POLYGAMIA MONOECIA.

Atriplex patula. Spreading halberd-leaved orache. Waste grounds.

—— *angustifolia*. Narrow-leaved orache. Ditto.

CLASS XXIV.—CRYPTOGAMIA FILICES.

Polypodium vulgare. Common polypody. Common.

Aspidium lobatum. Close-leaved prickly shield-fern. Hedge bottoms and woods.

—— *aculeatum*. Soft prickly shield-fern. Ditto.

—— *filiæ mas*. Blunt shield-fern. Common.

—— *spinulosum var. dilatatum*. Broad prickly-toothed shield-fern. Common.

Asplenium trichomanes. Common wall spleenwort. Swithland slate-pits, and Gracedieu.

—— *ruta muraria*. Wall-rue spleenwort. Bradgate stables.

—— *adiantum nigrum*. Black-stalked spleenwort. Rocks.

—— *filiæ femina*. Short-fruited spleenwort. Heathy places.

* ———— Var. with a purple stem. Very fine at Charnwood Heath, in 1840.

Scolopendrium vulgare. Common hart's-tongue. Shady rocks near Sheepshed and Beacon hill.

Pteris aquilina. Common brakes. Common.

Blechnum boreale. Northern hard fern. Heaths.

Ophioglossum vulgatum. Common adder's-tongue. Near Gracedieu, and Thringstone.

Lycopodium clavatum. Common club-moss. Near the Reservoir, and Kite hill.

—— *inundatum*. Marsh club-moss. Near the Reservoir.

* ———— *selago*. In the cutting of the old canal, near Ticker lane.

Equisetum arvense. Corn horse-tail. Common.

—— *limosum*. Smooth naked horse-tail. In ponds.

—— *palustre*. Marsh horse-tail. Marshy places.

—— *hyemale*. Rough horse-tail. Brook near Gracedieu lime-works.

—— *sylvaticum*. Gracedieu wood.

—— *fluviale*. Roe Cliff.

PART II.

MUSCI.

* *Phascum subulatum*. On sandy soils, Osgathorpe, &c.

—— *alternifolium*. Ditto.

—— *cuspidatum*. Cloud wood.

- Sphagnum obtusifolium*. In bogs.
 ——— *squarrosum*. Ditto.
 ——— *acutifolium*. Ditto.
 ——— *cuspidatum*. Ditto.—The limits between all the four species are very inconstant.
- Gymnostomum oreatum*. On the ground, in light soils.
 ——— *truncatulum*. Ditto.
 ——— *pyriforme*. Ditto.
- Anictangium ciliatum*. Banks of Groby pool, and Gracedieu.
Tetraphis pellucida. Bardon hill, and Gracedieu.
Encalypta vulgaris. On light soils, Gracedieu and Cloud wood.
Weissia lanceolata. Banks.
 ——— *controversa*. Ditto.
 ——— *cirrata*. On old rails and posts.
- Grimmia apocarpa*. Rocks. Gracedieu wood, &c.
 ——— *pulvinata*. Walls and rocks. Common.
Didymodon purpureus. Walls.
 ——— *flexifolius*. Near the Reservoir.
- Trichostomum lanuginosum*. Swithland slate-pits. Rare.
 ——— *heterostichum*. Rocks. Bardon hill, and Thringstone rocks.
 ——— *aciculare*. Bardon hill, and near One-barrow Lodge.
- Dicranum bryoides*. On banks.
 ——— *adiantoides*. Ditto.
 ——— *taxifolium*. Ditto.
 ——— *glaucum*. In bogs.
 * ——— *flexuosum*. Cloud wood, and Breedon.
 ——— *scoparium*. Banks. In fruit at Bardon.
 * ——— *squarrosum*. Thringstone. Rare.—I hardly know whether the plant was *D. squarrosus* or *pellucidum*; it was found barren, and I have mislaid the specimens.
 ——— *varium*. Banks.
 ——— *heteromallum*. Ditto.
- Tortula enervis*. Thringstone. Rare. Also at Cloud wood, Breedon, and other places.
 ——— *muralis*. On walls. Common.
 ——— *ruralis*. On thatched buildings. Common.
 ——— *subulata*. On banks.
 ——— *unguiculata*. On the ground.
 ——— *fallax*. Ditto.
- Cinclidotus fontinaloides*. Flood-gates, Groby pool, and Gracedieu brook. Rare.
Polytrichum undulatum. On moist soils.
 ——— *piliferum*. On walls.
 ——— *juniperinum*. Beacon hill.
 ——— *commune*. Banks and woods.
 ——— *aloides*. Banks.
 ——— *nanum*. Ditto.
- Funaria hygrometrica*. On the ground.
Orthotrichum anomalum. Rocks. Breedon.

- Orthotrichum affine*. On trees, in woods.
 ———— *diaphanum*. Ditto.
 ———— *striatum*. Ditto.
 ———— *Lyellii*. Bardon hill.
 ———— *crispum*. On trees, in woods.
- Bryum androgynum*. Banks.
 ———— *palustre*. Bardon and Beacon hills.
 ———— *argenteum*. Gravelly soils. Coleorton, in fruit.
 ———— *capillare*. On banks.
 ———— *caespitium*. Ditto.
 ———— *nutans*. Ditto.
 ———— *alpinum*. Near One-barrow Lodge.
 ———— *ventricosum*. Bogs.
 ———— *roseum*. Wood near Ulverscroft cottage.
 ———— *ligulatum*. Woods and banks.
 ———— *hornum*. Old banks.
 ———— *punctatum*. Banks of streams, and ditches.
- Bartramia pomiformis*. Banks, Gracedieu. Common.
 ———— *ithyphylla*.† Gracedieu.
 ———— *fontana*. In bogs.
- Leucodon sciuroides*. On trees.
- Neckera pumila*. On trees, in woods.
- Anomodon curtipendulum*. On old banks, and Bardon hill.
 ———— *reticulosum*. Ditto.
- Daltonia heteromalla*. Trees.
- Fontinalis antipyretica*. Rocks in Groby pool, and swamp at the source of a rivulet running from Kite hill to the Reservoir.
- Hypnum trichomanoides*. At the bottom of trunks of trees.
 ———— *complanatum*. Ditto.
 ———— *undulatum*. Bardon hill.
 ———— *denticulatum*. Swithland slate-pits.
 ———— *medium*. Near Rothley Temple.
 ———— *serpens*. On the ground.
 ———— *murale*. On walls.
 ———— *purum*. On banks.
 ———— *piliferum*. Sides of ditches.
 ———— *Schreberi*. Bardon hill.
 ———— *sericeum*. On rails, thorns, and trees.
 ———— *lutescens*. On banks.
 ———— *albicans*. Ditto.
 ———— *alopecurum*. In woods.
 ———— *dendroides*. In marshy meadows, Reservoir, and elsewhere.

† The *B. ithyphylla* in Mr. Bloxam's list is on my authority, but I fear it may be a variety of *B. pomiformis*, as it grows along with it, and the specific differences are but slight.—*C. B.*

- Hypnum curvatum*. Trunks of trees.
 ——— *myosuroides*. Bardon.
 ——— *splendens*. Dry banks.
 ——— *proliferum*. Ditto.
 ——— *prelongum*. Hedge bottoms.
 ——— *rutabulum*. On the ground.
 ——— *velutinum*. On stones.
 ——— *ruscifolium*. Common in water.
 ——— *striatum*. Woods.
 ——— *confertum*. Stones and rocks.
 ——— *cuspidatum*. In marshy meadows.
 ——— *cordifolium*. In bogs.
 ——— *loreum*. Bardon hill.
 ——— *triquetrum*. Woods.
 ——— *brevirostre*. Bardon hill. Rare.
 ——— *squarrosum*. Banks.
 ——— *filicinum*. In bogs.
 ——— *fluitans*. Groby pool.
 * ——— *aduncum*. Not uncommon in the boggy parts of the Forest, about the Whitwick range.
 ——— *cupressiforme*. On banks.
 ——— *molluscum*. Ditto.

HEPATICÆ.

- Riccia crystallina*. Bardon hill.
Marchantia polymorpha.
 * ——— *conica*. Not rare.
 * ——— *irrigua*? Gracedieu wood, by the brook, 1840, but barren. The absence of fructification makes me a little uncertain about the name; but authentic specimens of *M. irrigua*, from Dr. Taylor, coincide exactly with the general appearance of its frond.
Jungermannia asplenoides. Banks.
 ——— *emarginata*. Rocks in Sheet-hedges wood.
 ——— *nemorosa*. Bardon hill.
 ——— *undulata*. Bardon brook.
 ——— *albicans*. Rocks in Sheet-hedges wood.
 ——— *complanata*. Trees.
 ——— *bidentata*. Ditch banks.
 ——— *platyphylla*. Bardon hill.
 ——— *ciliaris*. Rocks near Groby pool, and Thringstone rocks.
 ——— *dilatata*. Trees.
 ——— *tamarisci*. Trees.
 ——— *Blasia*. Clay banks, and sides of ditches.
 ——— *epiphylla*. Ditto.
 ——— *farcata*. Trees.
 ——— *pubescens*. Rocks.

LICHENES.

- * *Beomyces rufus*. Gracedieu, &c. Not very unfrequent.
- * *Calicium sessile*. On *Pertusaria communis*.
- * ——— *tympanellum*. Timber. Common.
- * ——— *chrysocephalum*. Charnwood Heath. Rare.
- * ——— *curtum*. Charnwood Heath.
- * ——— *spherocephalum*. Charnwood Heath, and Thringstone.
- * *Arthonia gyrosa*. Seemingly an imperfect state of *Opegrapha*. Common.
- * ——— *astroidea*. Ditto.
- Opegrapha epipasta*. Trees.
- *rufescens*. Ditto.
- *atra*. Ditto.
- *varia*. Ditto.
- *scripta*. Ditto.
- Verrucaria epidermidis*. Trees.
- * ——— *cinerea*. Charnwood Heath.
- * ——— *alba*. Confounded with *V. gemmata*. Not yet published as British. On Maple, at Gracedieu, &c. Common.
- * ——— *punctiformis*. Common.
- * ——— *leucocephala*. Charnwood Heath.
- * ——— *clopima*. Gracedieu brook. New to England.
- * ——— *umbrina*. Ditto.
- * ——— *viridula*. Thringstone.
- * *Endocarpon fluviale*. (*E. minutum*, β . *Hookeri*.) Stones in Gracedieu brook.
- * ——— *pallidum*? Mountsorrel. Rare. Perhaps this may not be correctly named, but it can certainly belong to no other species in this catalogue.
- * *Pertusaria communis*. On stone at Charnwood Heath. Common.
- * ———, Var. *lejophlæa*.
- * ——— *fallax*. Not rare.
- * *Thelotrema lepadinum*. Charnwood Heath.
- Lepraria viridis*. Rocks, and stone walls.
- *flava*. Ditto.
- *alba*. Ditto.
- *nigra*. Ditto.
- * ——— *Jolithus*. Stone walls. Not rare.
- * *Spiloma sphærale*. Very common on the Whitwick range: but no lichen—a fungus.
- * ——— *decolorans*.
- * ——— *gregarium*. Cloud wood.
- * *Variolaria vitiligo*. Common.
- * ——— *conspurcata*. Common.
- * ——— *agelea*. Gracedieu wood.
- *discoidea*. Trees.
- *faginea*. Ditto.
- * *Urceolaria scruposa*. Gracedieu, &c. Not rare.

- * *Urceolaria calcarea*. Graevedieu.
 * ——— *Acharii*. Near One-Barrow Lodge.
Lecidea fusco-atra. On rocks.
 * ——— *confluens*. Common.
 * ——— *lapicida*. Common.
 * ——— *eleochroma*. Bark of trees.
 * ——— *muscorum*. Near the Reservoir. This, like *L. incana*, is the receptacle of several obscure nearly-allied plants.
 ——— *geographica*. Rocks. Bardon hill and Whitwick range.
 * ——— *uliginosa*. Near Thringstone rocks.
 * ——— *albo-atra*. Common.
 * ——— *Lightfootii*. Bardon, on birch.
 * ——— *querna*. Barren. Not uncommon.
 * ——— *incana*. Common. A species comprising imperfect forms of several others; any mealy greenish barren lichen being so called. The best moderns expunge it.
 * ——— *expallens*. On fir bark. Thringstone and Bardon.
 * ——— *quadricolor*. Near the Reservoir.
 * ——— *coronata*. Ditto. Rare.
 * ——— *rupestris*. Breedon and Cloud wood.
 * ——— *vernalis*. Rothley.
 * ——— *icmadophila*. On heathy ground, about the Whitwick rocks, but neither fine nor abundant.
 * ——— *marmorea*. Whitwick Church.
 * ——— *polytropa*. Whitwick rocks. Common. Allied to, if not a variety of *Lecanora varia*.
Lecanora atra. On trees.
 * ——— *coarctata*. Thringstone. Found on brick. Rare.
 * ——— *squamulosa*. Whitwick rocks, and Bardon.
 * ——— *sophodes*. Near Ashby.
 * ——— *glaucoma*. Rocks. Common.
 ——— *subfusca*. On trees.
 * ——— *crenulata*. On old walls, at Rothley. Common. But no true species; probably spoiled *Squamaria saxicola*.
 ——— *varia*. Rails.
 ——— *albella*. On trees.
 * ——— *parella*. On rocks. Not rare.
 * ——— *tartarea*. Not common.
 ——— *vitellina*. Rocks.
Squamaria caudalaria. On thorns and trees.
 ——— *murorum*. Walls. Rothley Temple.
 * ——— *lanuginosa*. Whitwick rocks, 1840.
 * ——— *casia*. Rothley.
 * ——— *saxicola*. In exposed places. Common.
Placodium canescens. Bark of trees. Fertile at Thringstone.
Parmelia caperata. Rocks.
 * ——— *conspersa*. Thringstone.

- Parmelia saxatilis*. Fertile at Charnwood Heath.
 * ——— *Borreri*. Common.
 ——— *olivacea*. Rails; and a dark var. on rocks.
 * ——— *perlata*. Common.
 ——— *pulverulenta*. Trunks of trees.
 * ——— *pityrea*. Cole-Orton, &c.
 ——— *stellaris*. Trunks of trees.
 * ——— *cycloselis*. Rothley.
 * ——— *aleurites*. Bardon.
 * ——— *ambigua*. Bardon.
 ——— *parietina*. On walls.
 ——— *physodes*. Rocks.
 * *Sticta scrobiculata*. Near Swithland slate-pits.
 * *Collema cristatum*. Common.
 * ——— *limosum*. Thringstone.
 * ——— *flaccidum*? Gracedieu wood.
 * ——— *granulatum*. Rothley.
 * ——— *crispum*. Common.
 * ——— *lacerum*. Gracedieu wood. †
Peltidea canina. On banks.
 ——— *rufescens*. Ditto.
 * ——— *spuria*. Thringstone rocks.
 * *Umbilicaria pustulata*. Near Mountsorrel windmill.
Cetraria glauca. Bardon hill.
Borreria ciliaris. On trees.
 ——— *tenella*. Rocks.
 * ——— *furfuracea*. Charnwood Heath, &c. Not uncommon.
Evernia prunastri. Trees.
Ramalina fraxinea. Trunks of trees.
 ——— *fastigiata*. Ditto.
 ——— *farinacea*. Ditto.
Usnea florida. Old rails. Variable and barren.
Alectoria jubata. Bardon and Beacon hills, Charnwood Heath, &c.
Cornicularia aculeata. On rocks.
 * *Isidium coccodes*. Gracedieu wood.
 * ——— *paradoxum*. Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
 * ——— *corallinum*. Thringstone and Bardon.—The two last are certainly nothing but monstrosities of *Lecanora parella*; as is the first of *Pertusaria communis*. I very plainly detected the passage of *Isidium corallinum* into *Lecanora parella*, at Bardon, 1839.
Sphaerophoron coralloides. On rocks. Bardon hill and Gracedieu.
Cladonia uncialis. Bardon hill.
 ——— *raugiferina*. Ditto.

† There are also some other species of this puzzling genus found in the neighbourhood, which I cannot precisely determine.—*C. B.*

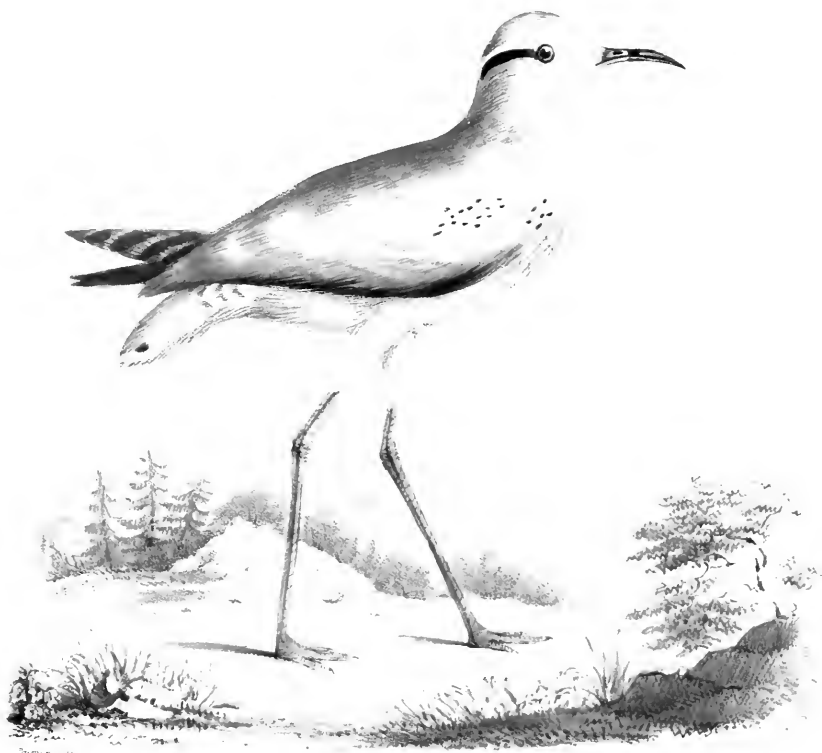
- Cladonia furcata.* Ditto.
 *————— *pungens?* Bardon.
 **Scyphophorus sparassus.* Bardon.
 *————— *alcicornis.* Thringstone rocks, sparingly.
 ————— *pyxidatus.* On rocks.
 *————— *neglectus.* Thringstone rocks. Rare.—Probably a var. of *S. pyxidatus.*
 *————— *radiatus.* Common.
 ————— *cornutus.* On rocks.
 ————— *gracilis.* Ditto.
 *————— *filiformis.* Swannington.
 *————— *digitatus.* Bardon, &c.
 ————— *cocciferus.* Bardon.

CHARACEÆ.

- **Chara flexilis.* Reservoir.
 ——— *vulgaris.* In ponds at Gracedieu.

ORNITHOLOGY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

ORNITHOLOGY
OF
CHERRYWOOD FOREST.



CURSORIUS ISABELLINUS.

ORNITHOLOGY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

THE following list of birds, found in or near* Charnwood Forest, has been drawn up almost solely from specimens which its compiler has been able himself to examine, or of which he has received accounts from trustworthy friends, whose names are uniformly inserted in their proper places; by which means, though the catalogue will appear smaller than it might have been made upon a different plan, it is hoped that it will be found, in general, more accurate and determinate. Perhaps the list of land birds may be tolerably complete: but that of the water fowl, as being uncertain or brief visitants, especially the duck tribe and sea birds, probably falls considerably short of the number of species seen or killed. When a station for a bird is recorded without any authority being affixed, or account given of what has become of the specimen (if killed), the Compiler, in whose possession the bird in most cases remains, is answerable for the correctness of its insertion.

The species are named from Selby's Illustrations of British Birds, 2nd Edition, Edinburgh, 1833.

St. John's College, Cambridge, January 14, 1842.

LAND BIRDS.

- Aquila Chrysaëta.* Golden Eagle. Killed in Bradgate Park, in April, 1841, and now in the possession of the Earl of Stamford, at Dunham Massey. Communicated by Mr. Potter.
- Haliætos Albicilla.* Cinereous Eagle. A specimen killed at Swannington, by Mr. William Burton. The head and wings only were preserved. These I have seen.
- Pandion Haliætos.* Osprey. One shot by the Marquis of Hastings, at Donington Park, October, 1841, is in his Lordship's collection. I am informed by the Rev. Robert Blunt, that one was killed also at Melbourne, some years ago.
- Accipiter Fringillarius.* Sparrow Hawk.
- Falco Peregrinus.* Peregrine Falcon. A very fine female shot five or six years ago near the Loughborough outwoods. Two, a male and female, were killed at Gopsal, about two years ago.
- *subbuteo.* Hobby. Near Thringstone, one specimen.
- *Tinnunculus.* Kestrel.
- *Æsalon.* Merlin. Near Sheepshed.
- Buteo vulgaris.* Common Buzzard. Two shot near Charnwood Heath, 1839; one is in the possession of Thomas Gisborne, Esq., the other of Kirkby Fenton, Esq.

* Eight miles has been taken as the limit of "vicinity:" no bird seen or killed at any distance from the Forest greater than this has been admitted. The same is true, also, of the additions made to the Rev. A. Bloxam's Catalogue of Plants.

- Circus cyaneus*. Hen Harrier. Thringstone, 1841. Seen, but not killed.
- Milvus vulgaris*. Kite. Shot from a window at Long Cliff, in the act of watching some young tame pigeons.
- Otus vulgaris*. Long-horned Owl. Heaths; not very common.
- *brachyotos*. Short-eared Owl. Woodcock Owl. Frequently found both in the wilder parts of the moors, and in turnip fields, where the dogs will sometimes point it.
- Strix flammea*. Barn, or White Owl.
- Uula stridula*. Brown, or Tawny Owl.
- Hirundo rustica*. Swallow.
- *urbica*. Martin.
- *riparia*. Sand Martin.
- Cypselus murarius*. Swift.
- Caprimulgus Europæus*. Goat-sucker, or Fern Owl. Rocky heaths, about Sharpley, Kite-hill, &c.
- Alcedo Ispida*. Kingfisher.
- Muscicapa Grisola*. Spotted Fly-catcher.
- Lanius Collurio*. Red-backed Shrike, or Little Butcher-bird. Two old birds were shot in Talbot-lane, 1834; and in the following summer there was a brood of young birds (Bewick's Woodchat) in the same neighbourhood, several of which I shot.
- Merula viscivora*. Missel Thrush.
- *pilaris*. Fieldfare.
- *musica*. Song Thrush.
- *iliaca*. Redwing.
- *vulgaris*. Blackbird.
- *torquata*. Ring Ouzel. On Strawberry-hill, near Sharpley, in the summer of 1840, I observed three or four flying about among the rocks; and had a specimen brought me from the same place a few years previously.
- Cinclus aquaticus*. Dipper, or Water Ouzel. Seen in the shallow pools of the rocky rivulet which runs from Kite-hill to the Reservoir, when the Forest began to be inclosed, by a relative who has had frequent opportunities, in Dovedale, of observing the habits of this singular bird.
- Saricola Enanthe*. Wheatear.
- *rubetra*. Whin-Chat.
- *rubicola*. Stone-Chat.
- Erythraca rubecula*. Redbreast.
- Phenicura rutililla*. Redstart, or Firetail.
- Salicaria Locustella?* Grasshopper Warbler. A bird that may very probably be this, is not rare near Charnwood Heath; but it lies so close among the sedges and furze, that I have never yet been able to shoot it.
- *phragmitis*. Sedge Warbler, or Reed Fauvette. Shot at Groby. Communicated by the Rev. A. Bloxam.
- Philomela Luscinia*. Nightingale. About Leicester, Rothley, Wanlip, &c.
- Curruca cinerea*. Whitethroat.
- Sylvia hippolais*. Lesser Pettychaps, or Chiff Chaff.
- *trochilus*. Yellow Wren.
- Regulus auricapillus*. Golden-crested Wren.
- Parus major*. Great Titmouse, or Tom-tit.

- Parus cæruleus*. Blue Titmouse.
 — *palustris*. Marsh Ditto.
 — *ater*. Cole Ditto.
 — *caudatus*. Long-tailed Ditto, or Bottle Tit.
Accentor modularis. Hedge Sparrow.
Motacilla alba. Pied Wagtail.
 ——— *boarula*. Grey Ditto.
 ——— *flava*. Yellow Ditto.
Anthus pratensis. Meadow Pipit, or Tit Lark. Common on the heaths.
 ——— *arboreus*. Tree Pipit. Not very rare at Thringstone, and probably found elsewhere, near the Forest. A bird little known, from its great resemblance to the last; but not plentiful any where, according to Montague and Selby.
Alauda arvensis. Skylark.
Plectrophanes nivalis. Snow Bunting. A specimen shot on the rocks near Whitwick, four or five years ago, in the transition from the white to the tawny plumage.
Emberiza miliaria. Common Bunting.
 ——— *citrinella*. Yellow Bunting, or Yellow-hammer.
 ——— *Schœniculus*. Reed Bunting.
Passer domesticus. House Sparrow.
Fringilla cælebs. Chaffinch.
 ——— *montifringilla*. Brambling, or Mountain Finch. Several shot, twenty years ago, at Swannington, by Mr. Grundy, who kept a wounded bird for some time in a cage. It lost all its yellow and red plumage, and turned dark brown, after being fed on hemp-seed.* He did not, at the time, know its name, but described its plumage accurately, and on being shown a stuffed specimen, recognized it immediately. It has since been killed near Glenfield; and in January, 1841, during a long snow, several were shot at Castle Donington. For these two last notices I am indebted respectively to Mr. Bloxam and Mr. Blunt. In the present January (1842) ten or twelve have been shot near Cole-Orton.
Carduelis spinus. Siskin. In flocks at Thringstone and Rothley Temple, among alders, 1837.
 ——— *elegans*. Goldfinch, or Proud Tailor. The "Goldfinch," however, about Thringstone, is the provincial, but incorrect name for the Yellow Bunting.
Linaria cannabina. Linnet.
 ——— *minor*. Redpole. A couple shot at Thringstone, 1834, and a small flock appeared at Gracedieu, 1841.
Coccothraustes vulgaris. Hawfinch Grosbeach. One shot at Cole-Orton, another at Groby.
 ——— *chloris*. Green Linnet.
Loxia curvirostra. Crossbill. In great flocks in the winter of 1839, splitting the fir cones at "The Oaks," near Charnwood Heath; and in some tall firs at Swannington. They were very tame. I brought down several at one shot.
Pyrhula vulgaris. Bullfinch.
Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.
Corvus corax. Raven. Generally to be seen on Sharpley, a few years since. Still in Bradgate Park, as I learn from Mr. Bloxam.

* Bullfinches turn black, according to Selby, when so fed.

Corvus corone. Carrion Crow.

——— *cornix.* Hooded Crow. Seen by Mr. Tomlinson, jun., near Charnwood Heath. He attempted in vain to shoot it. I have seen specimens, said to be killed near Leicester.

——— *frugilegus.* Rook.

——— *monedula.* Jackdaw.

Pica melanoleuca. Magpie.

Garrulus glandarius. Jay.

Picus viridis. Green Woodpecker.

——— *major.* Great spotted Ditto. Both found in old woods, all round the Forest; but the latter not very common.

——— *minor.* Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Near Groby. Communicated by the Rev. A. Bloxam.

Yunx torquilla. Wryneck.

Sitta Europæa. Nuthatch. Rothley Temple, and elsewhere, in old orchards.

Certhia familiaris. Creeper.

Troglodytes Europæus. Wren.

Cuculus canorus. Cuckoo. Five or six of these birds may be heard at the same time, among the rocks.

Columba Palumbus. Ring Dove.

——— *Ænas.* Stock Dove. Mr. Grundy has shot "Rock Doves" at Bardon, many years back, which he thought came from the Vale of Belvoir. This would probably not be *C. Livia*, but *C. Ænas*, which is still common in Bradgate Park, as I learn from Mr. Bloxam, and also in Calke Park, the seat of Sir G. Crewe, Bart.

Phasianus Colchicus. Pheasant. The hybrid bird, also, between the pheasant and the common fowl, occurs occasionally in Birchwood, near Charley.

Tetrao Tetrix. Black Grouse, or Black Game. Near Charnwood Heath, Sharpley, &c., in tolerable numbers, till the last two years. They are now nearly extinct.

Lagopus Scoticus. Red Grouse. A brood at Tin Meadows, twenty years ago, some of which were shot by Mr. Grundy, when in search of Black Game. Since then Mr. Gisborne attempted to introduce the bird from Scotland and the Derbyshire Moors, but without success; it being unable to bear the dust of the journey, as the game-keeper thought.

Perdix cinerea. Partridge.*

——— *coturnix.* Quail. Several killed one season between Whitwick and Bardon, some years ago, by Mr. Grundy, who kept a wounded bird alive for some time. It has not been observed there since.

WATER BIRDS.

Ardea cinerea. Common Heron.

Botaurus stellaris. Bittern. One was shot near Ashby, in 1834, by the late Mr. Joseph Cantrell; another, killed at Wanlip, is in the possession of Sir George J. Palmer, Bart.; a third, shot at Glentfield, is in the possession of C. Winstanley, Esq., of Braunston Hall.

* It may be added, on the authority of Charles March Phillips, Esq., that a variety of the Partridge, with white-breasted horse-hoos, is still met with on Charnwood: and, so far as that gentleman has been able to learn, there only.—T. N. P.

- Numenius arquata*. Common Curlew. Shot at Ben's Cliff; now at Rothley Temple.
- *Phæopus*. Whimbrel Curlew. One specimen shot near Charnwood Heath.
- Totanus hypoleucos*. Common Sandpiper. Gracedieu and Groby Pool.
- *ochropus*. Green Ditto. Groby Pool.
- Scolopax rusticola*. Woodcock.
- *gallinago*. Common Snipe.
- *gallinula*. Jack Snipe.
- Rallus aquaticus*. Water Rail. Thringstone, Rothley Temple, &c.
- Crex pratensis*. Corn Crake, or Land Rail.
- *Porzana*. Spotted Crake. Near Leicester.
- Gallinula chloropus*. Water Hen.
- Fulica atra*. Common Coot. Groby Pool, and Barret Pool.
- Cursorius Isabellinus*. Cream-coloured Swiftfoot. The third and last specimen found in Britain, was killed near Timberwood Hill, October, 1827. It is in the collection of the Rev. Thomas Gisborne, of Yoxall Lodge, and was lent by him to Mr. Selby, for whose splendid work it was engraved.* “Bill three quarters of an inch long, black, and arched towards the tip. Irides pale yellowish-grey. Forehead and crown of the head pale buff-orange, passing towards the occiput into ash-grey: below which, backwards, is a triangular spot of black. Over each eye, and passing round the hind part of the head (below the black spot) is a band of pure white. From the posterior angle of the eye is a streak of black. Throat and chin pale reddish-white. The whole of the body sienna-yellow, tinged with ash-grey, palest beneath. Greater quills brownish-black; outer tail-feathers having a small dusky spot near their tips. Legs long, with the tibiæ naked for an inch above the tarsal joint. Toes short; the outer united to the middle toe by a rather broad membrane, the *inner* toe by a smaller one. Claw of the middle toe pectinated; a peculiarity belonging also to all the other species.”—The specimen which was first found in Britain was sold to Donovan, for 83 guineas, and is now in the British Museum. Only two other individuals of the species have ever been found on the continent of Europe; one in Austria, the other in France. A native of the northern and western parts of Africa. In shape much like the Lapwing, but smaller by one-third.
- Charadrius pluvialis*. Golden Plover. Near Charnwood Heath.
- Vanellus cristatus*. Lapwing, or Pee-wit.
- Anser* ——? Wild Goose.—Some kind of Wild Goose appears frequently on and near the Forest. In the winter of 1841, I fired at one near Thringstone, but without effect. It was one of Selby's three first species; probably *A. ferus*, the Bean Goose.
- Cygnus ferus*. Whistling Swan. Seen at Bardon, by Mr. Grundy, formerly. Many have been recently killed near Burton-on-Trent. In the more immediate neighbourhood of the Forest they are more rarely shot. One killed near Wanlip Hall was added, by the Dowager Lady Palmer, to Mr. Gisborne's extensive collection at Yoxall Lodge; and I hear from Mr. Bloxam, that another has been killed at Groby.
- Spathulea clypeata*. Shoveller. Killed near Charnwood Heath. In the collection at Yoxall Lodge.
- Anas Boschas*. Wild Duck; Mallard.

* The extreme rarity of the bird may justify me in copying the description given of this specimen by Mr. Selby, in his “Illustrations of British Ornithology,” Vol. II., p. 219.

Querquedula Crecca. Common Teal.

Mareca Penelope. Wigeon.

Mergus Merganser. Goosander. Near Langley. In the possession of R. Cheslyn, Esq.

Podiceps cristatus. Crested Grebe. Groby Pool. Communicated by the Rev. A. Bloxam.

—— *minor.* Little Grebe; Dabchick. Rothley, Groby, &c.; but not abundant.

Sula Bassana. Solan Gannet. Picked up dead, or dying, near Buddon Wood. In the possession of Miss Watkinson, of Woodhouse.

Sterna hirundo. Common Tern.

—— *nigra.* Black Tern. Both these marine birds are sometimes found at Groby Pool, Cole-Orton, and elsewhere.

Larus ridibundus. Black-headed, or Red-legged Gull. A specimen in its winter plumage, shot near Melhourne, is in the possession of the Rev. Robert Blunt, of Belton.

—— *canus.* Common Gull. Often seen and shot. Flocks of Gulls, probably *L. Rissa*, as well as this, frequently fly over Thringstone, after violent storms. None, except the common Gull, have fallen into my hands. A very large Gull, which I have not seen, was killed at Benscliff. This would most likely be *L. marinus*, the great black-backed Gull.

Cataractes vulgaris. Common Skua. One shot near Wymeswold, December, 1841. Communicated by Mr. Potter.

Thalassidroma Bullockii. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel.* One found in Gopsal Park is in the possession of the Earl Howe. Communicated by Dr. Kennedy.

CHURCHILL BABINGTON.

* These birds, with two or three other nearly-allied species of Petrel, are known to mariners as "Mother Carey's Chickens."

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE GEOLOGICAL VISIT OF PROFESSORS SEDGWICK, AIREY, AND WHEWELL,
TO CHARNWOOD FOREST.

BY THE LATE C. ALLSOP, ESQUIRE.

(OBLIGINGLY COMMUNICATED BY CHARLES MARCH PHILLIPPS, ESQUIRE.)

[I venture, in the absence of Mr. Jukes, who is gone out, as Naturalist, in a voyage of exploration, to give the following interesting and important remarks: feeling assured, that even if they contradict any part of his own "speculations," he will be the last person to complain, providing they at all conduce to efficient truth, or promote the science of which he is not only a Professor but a devotee.—T. R. P.]

The examination of the eastern range of the Charnwood Forest rocks, by Professors Sedgwick and Airey, and Mr. Whewell, commenced with the sienite rocks at Mountsorrel; and in a stone-quarry on Rothley Plain (at Simpson's Pit), a fault or dyke was pointed out to them by a friend of mine, who accompanied them to my house.

At the slate-quarries at Swithland, and on the low range of schistose rocks above Woodhouse Eaves, their attention, as I understand, was particularly directed to the composition of the rocks, and the dip which they exhibited to the horizon.

Having understood that the dip, or angle of inclination of the rocks, was an object of particular inquiry, as soon as they honoured me by placing themselves under my guidance, I took them to the top of Broombriggs, where the dip is remarkably developed. From thence they proceeded to Beacon Hill, which exhibits a similar development, though perhaps not quite so distinctly marked.

Whilst the party was on Beacon Hill, I mentioned to Mr. Sedgwick that there was a small mass of sienitic rock, at the base of Beacon Hill, on S. W. side, evidently *in situ*; and I mentioned to him this fact, because the general character of the surrounding rocks was either schistose or porphyritic. He begged that I would immediately conduct them to it; and when we reached it, and he had examined it, he pronounced it to be sienite. From this point they proceeded to Whittle Hill, and after examining the quarry recently opened for the purpose of raising whetstones, they went to the top of the hill, to ascertain the dip of the rocks that presented themselves there. From Whittle Hill they proceeded to the northern base of Beacon Hill: and I took occasion to point out to them the part called "*The Falling in*," of which I believe there is some account recorded in a volume of the Harleian Miscellany, and of which the tradition is, that a remarkable subsidence took place in a rock here situated (about 1680). In a marl-pit, near the northern foot of Beacon Hill, there is a manifestation of freestone, or millstone grit, in lamina, which was examined by Mr. Sedgwick, and he pronounced the whole of this valley an oceanic valley.

Their next attention was directed to the Hanging-stone rocks, and the range immediately above Beaumanor; examining, however, every rock that they passed, with a view to the ascertainment of its angle of inclination.

The result of the day's inquiry showed that the angle of inclination was invariably towards the east, on the eastern side of the Forest; and on the following morning, Mr. Sedgwick informed me that he was desirous of ascertaining the dip of the rocks towards the western side, as he conceived they might possibly discover an anticlinal line, which would facilitate their inquiries as to the origin of the rocks.

I took occasion to ask if the rocks in the vicinity of Whitwick had been minutely examined, and was answered in the affirmative; but was informed that they were of a porphyritic character, and from their massiveness exhibited no angle of inclination. It was then agreed that they should visit a lower range of parallel rocks which were known to be mere schistose.

Bensliff was the first rock that was examined, and the discovery was soon made that the dip on this rock was towards the *west*. This, as it appeared to me, was a most gratifying result; and it was not less so, to find that the dip on Black Hill was in the same direction. On the rocks above Baldwin Castle and Charley, the development was not quite so complete, from the porphyritic nature of the rocks, which effaced the stratification.

From the survey of this lower range of rocks, including the rock upon which the new Chapel is erected, the inquiry was extended to Ives Head. I did not accompany them to the top of Ives Head, but from the length of time employed there I concluded some difficulty had arisen; and when Mr. Whewell joined me, he admitted they had encountered some difficulty, from the angle of inclination on Ives Head not being in accordance with their theory; and that Professors Sedgwick and Airey were gone to a stone-quarry they had caught sight of at a short distance from the road, to ascertain if it would furnish them with any additional information.

Whilst this inquiry was going on, Mr. Whewell and I proceeded to a stone-quarry I had discovered on Morley Hill, and here the dip was ascertained to be towards the *east*; and this was the point they were all so solicitous to discover, inasmuch as the dip of the rocks on Ives Head was towards the *west*. The ascertainment of the fact of the dip on Ives head being towards the west, and on the Morley Hill, just below, towards the east, proved that the anticlinal line traversed the valley between, and entered the Forest here; and Mr. Whewell pointed out the precise spot which it might be supposed to traverse. Mr. Sedgwick here observed to me, that "the rocks were of igneous origin, and that the hills were entitled to be called mountains!" "Yes," added Mr. Whewell—"and here are all the accompaniments of a mountainous chain. Coal measures on the west—carboniferous limestone on the north—and sienitic rocks on the east and on the south; with an anticlinal line traversing the centre—accounting for the dislocation of the strata, and referring the origin of the rocks to igneous agency."

*Broombriggs, Woodhouse,
Sept. 24, 1833.*

CHARLES ALLSOP.

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

ORNITHOLOGY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

Circus rufus. Marsh Harrier, or Moor Buzzard. One killed and another seen at Buddon Wood, in 1841, by the Keeper of G. J. D. Butler Danvers, Esq.

Curruca atricapilla. Blackcap Warbler. Swannington, Long Whatton, &c.

Silvia sibilatrix. Wood Wren. Not uncommon.

Fregilus Graculus. Cornish Chough. One killed in Calke Park. Communicated by the Rev. A. Bloxam.

Limosa rufa. Bar-tailed Godwit. Winter plumage. One shot in the meadows near Swarkestone; now at Cole-Orton Hall, the seat of Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, Bart.

Charadrius morinellus. Dotterel. Five brought down at a shot by Mr. Tomlinson, junior, at Charnwood Heath. Miss Watkinson, of Woodhouse, also has one, taken near Buddon Wood.

———— *Hiaticula*. Ring Plover. Killed at Groby, by the Keeper of the Earl of Stamford, who has likewise shot the three following birds in the same place.

Fuligula cristata. Tufted Pochard, or Tufted Duck.

Clangula vulgaris. Golden Eye. Also in Loughborough meadows.

Colymbus septentrionalis. Red-throated Diver. The immature bird, or Speckled Diver.

———— *arcticus*. Black-throated Diver. Donington Park. Communicated by the Rev. Thomas Gisborne.

Mergus melanoleucos. Rotche, or Little Auk. A pair of these rare arctic birds were taken alive at Nantantan, Nov. 6, 1837, in a turnip field, by J. Cartwright, Esq., of Loughborough, who endeavoured, without success, to keep them alive on fish and insects.

Larus Rissa. Kittiwake. Bardon, &c.

CHURCHILL BABINGTON.

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