

The Genealogist.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF TAILLEFER, *alias* BORLASE, OF BORLAS FRANK TAILLEFER . IN THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

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Those who have felt the charm of Mr. Blackmore's singularly beautiful romance, "Lorna Doone," may not be averse perhaps to have presented to them in the following sketch the genuine annals of an old west-country family, who, for twenty generations at least, in direct male line, have made their home in the county in which they still continue to dwell, and the vicissitudes of whose history cannot fail to recall, especially in its earlier portion, the characteristics of the denizens of the famous Devonshire glen.

The traveller, in journeying through central Cornwall, when he reaches that point on the bleak surface of the Goss Moor where the Fal and the Camel are said to rise in the same rushy swamp, will notice, if he looks to the northward, a basin-shaped valley, whose green slopes and patches of orchard ground are in marked contrast at once to the waste which he is traversing, and to the no less barren uplands which close in the bright oasis on the further side. At the head of this valley, that is, at its eastern end, stands the parish church of St. Wenn, an edifice which within the last few years was subjected to such complete renovation, that even the old carved bench-ends were sold, and nothing remains of what was ancient save the font, the pillars, and the basement of what must have been an exceedingly solid and handsome tower, until, "in a stormy night about the year 1663, the upper portion with the bells was struck by lightning and the great part of the roof of the Church broken in." The water for the font, as Hals, the old historian of the country gossip, who ended his days in the parish in 1739, informs us, "was fetched from a well consecrated to the memory of the patron saint; and here also on the downs hard by were the ruins of a cemetery, an antient chapel, and (another) consecrated walled well dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen"; "from which," adds the same authority, "at the first gush issueth at all seasons of the

year the most water in one spout that ever mine eyes beheld." Carenza was the name it bore, being the Cornish word for "love," in allusion, no doubt, to the story of her whose memory the crystal spring recalled. Here the people worshipped in the days before the Church was built. All round about it stood a grove of oak trees, "till one Best, a lieutenant in the Parliament service, cut it down and demolished the chapel." Hals, who, as we may judge from the following passage, was an ardent Jacobite, goes on to tell us of further atrocities committed by this same person, and the fate which befell him in retribution. Not only, he says, was Mr. Cory, the then Vicar of this parish, much persecuted by him, but he once actually "lodg'd his troop of horse in St. Wenn church, and, with his companions, in a frolick, baptis'd the church broom, and broke to pieces the font stones." "He [Best] "afterwards dy'd in great poverty, abounding with lice, *temp.* "William III., slighted of his own children, and pityed by few "Christians."

From the earliest times the valley had been populous and important. It was the very centre of the Cornish peninsula. Two strong fortifications lay on its southern side:—Castle-an-dinas, a British earthwork, the key of the whole country from a strategic point of view; and Damelsa, a fortress, consisting, says Dr. Borlase, "of three rampiers of stone and earth, after the British manner, as a hedge," more immediately contiguous to the valley itself. Its value lay not in any facilities it afforded for the growth of grain,—for it must be remembered that until the reign of Elizabeth, or even later, no field of waving corn gilded the landscape from one end of Cornwall to the other—but in the excellent plots of garden ground and in the shelter for homesteads which the low-lying tract afforded, while the downs above were equally in requisition as grazing ground for sheep. Wool for export and cheese for home consumption were the sole produce of the western farmer in those days; and, under these conditions, every rich valley, formed into natural paddocks by the fall of the ground, had a value of its own far greater, than, in comparison with the higher lands, is the case to-day. Each was an oasis, dropped, as it were, from Heaven into the midst of a desolate waste of heather and rock; each contained its church; many of them had their religious establishment of monks or nuns; while the yeoman freeholders, each one farming his own estate, possessed that which caused them to be looked on with covetous eyes by neighbouring lords, or even, as we shall see, by the King himself. The very names of the farms themselves bear their testimony to the early condition of St. Wenn. Lancorla means the "sheep-fold"; Trewithan marks the "town-place in the trees"; at Kelinack grew the 'kelin,' or "holly tree"; Rose-mannon is the "butter down"; Skewis betokens the presence of "shade"; Kernick is an exception, for it means "rocky"; but the

rich tract of land which girds the valley on its northern side, and creeps up the slope till it reaches the downs of St. Breock, fully justifies, as no doubt it always did, the name it bears, Borlase, "the green hill side." Two fairs, a spring and autumn one, established at Tregonetha in 1520, mark the growing importance of the district in the 16th century.

It needs not the philosophy of Buckle to tell us that good lands produce good men. If the next parish, Withiell, could boast that the gallant Sir Bevill Grenville was born there, St. Wenn, too, could tell us of more than one remarkable man who could have claimed the valley as his birth-place. From Tregurtha, or Tregury, came Michael de Tregury, born there towards the close of the 14th century, who, after having been a teacher in the University of Caen to the French subjects of the English crown, became successively the Rector of that University, Dean of Barnstable, chaplain to Henry V., Archbishop of Dublin, and a Privy Councillor in 1450, "with a salary of £20 per annum." His life was an adventurous one, since on one occasion he was taken prisoner by pirates, and on another was committed to prison in Dublin, in which city he died in 1471, and was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral. From Great Skewish, also in St. Wenn, came John Skewish, author of a work on the Trojan War, and who acted as deputy to Cardinal Wolsey when he was Lord Chancellor. He died in 1533, and, amongst other facts connected with him, it is known that he had the privilege of wearing his hat in the presence of the King. The manors of Cransworth, belonging to the Bonvilles, and of Codiford Farlegh, a Royal manor in the Botreaux family, were also in this parish. In connection with the latter, Hals relates that the punishment of the "cucking stool" had existed from the days of Henry III. down to the 17th century, and that in his time there was a walled pool for this purpose by the side of the highway. The document, which he states to be contained in one of the Books of the Exchequer at Westminster, is not complimentary to the manners and morals of the place. After setting forth that owing to the clamorous cries of slanderous and meretricious women, many evils, such as contentions, strifes, defamations, and diverse other iniquities occur in the manor, "therefore," it goes on to say, "our eustom is with regard to them that when caught they receive judgment by the cucking-stool, and there stand with naked feet, with their hair let down and disshevelled, long enough to be seen by all who pass by over the road, according to the will of our Bailiffs-in-capite."

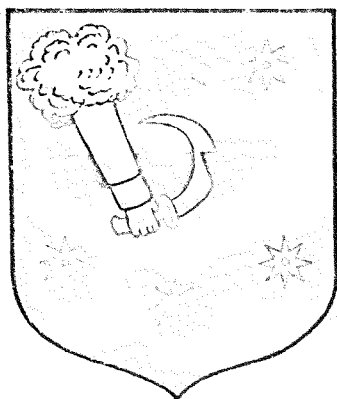
But, as it is not of the absent lords of the greater manors, but of the resident owners of a comparatively small estate that we propose to speak at present, we will pass from their surroundings, which we have thus introduced, to consider the descent, name, and arms of the Borlases of Borlase. Their place of residence, now called 'Lower Borlase,' but anciently Borlas Taillyfer, or Borlas Frank

Taillyfer, has passed out of the family for more than a century and a half; but is in the possession and occupation of a worthy representative of that class of yeomen proprietors, who in the Middle Ages made England what she was, who gained for her those victories at Agincourt and Poitiers, on which she looks back with the most honest pride, and whose numbers and condition of independence it is the aim of our present land reformers to restore. The situation of the house was well chosen, snugly nestling in the hill-side with its face to the valley on the south. Little remains of the old structure, which was pulled down only a few years ago, though that little marks its great antiquity. An outlying portion of the building, used as a cow-house, but still called 'the parlour' is the oldest portion, and can scarcely be more recent than the Edwardian period. The walls are of great thickness, and buttressed without. Traces of a more recent house, of late 16th or early 17th century date, are to be found in two large embrasured windows, and in the bevelled jambs of door-cases of dark (Catacluze) marble from quarries near Padstow, which have either been built into more modern walls, or are lying strewn about the courtyards. There was a curious porch, belonging to this later date, consisting of a little room built out on granite pillars, a very common and picturesque feature in old Cornish houses, but which has been demolished. A tradition of the place pointed to this little room as that in which Dr. Borlase, the historian of Cornwall, wrote his history of the county, the fact being, however, that he never visited the house in his life. To the orchards of this place the Borlase pippin owes its name—a little golden apple with a lemon end—which (probably introduced in the first instance from France) has followed the family wherever they have gone.

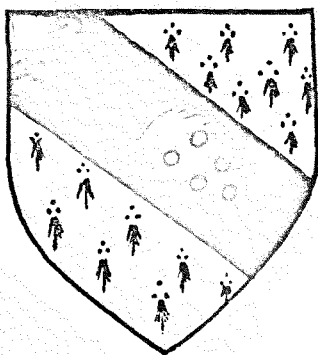
Hals speaks of the Borlases of Borlase as "an old family of gentlemen, surnamed from that place"; and adds that "in the north aisle of St. Wenn church were their seats, and peculiar burying places, where their arms were (tho' since removed) in the first erected seats." Tonkin, another Cornish historian, states that "this lordship was given by King William II., surnamed Rufus, to——Lord of the Castle of Talfer in Normandy, ever since which his posterity have flourished here, and at Treluddero (in Newlyn parish), in great esteem, by the name of Borlase." On this statement Whitaker remarks, "This is a singular, perhaps a single instance of a Norman or Saxon family assuming a Cornish name." "Indeed," he adds, "I suppose it not to be true." Now, as anyone who has paid attention to the study of English genealogy is well aware, a grant of this age and nature made to the direct ancestor of an existing family would be a thing of the utmost rarity,—if not absolutely unique. The one great difficulty in the compilation of our early pedigrees, as for example in the cases of the Arundell and Fortescue families, is

to find the link which carries them across the Channel to the place of their undoubted origin in France. The source, however, from which Tonkin derived his information was not merely local tradition (nowhere more likely to be worthy of credit, by the way, than in an isolated country such as Cornwall), but the notes of Sir Edward Bysshe (1654) on Upton *De Studio Militari*, an author who has left behind him a name at the College of Arms for integrity, learning, and care. Dugdale speaks of him as "that learned gentleman my singular friend and furtherer of my work;" and it is said of him by Anthony à Wood that in compiling these "notes," which he did "with great modesty," he embodied no hearsay or traditions, but the results of researches among curious and scarce MSS., and in this way succeeded in collecting together "more family history of the nobility and gentry of England by far than was to be met with in the three works which he edited, or indeed in any English works on the subject which had previously appeared." His statement then is worthy of attention, and it is as follows:—"The head of the family of Borlase (who at the time he wrote was Colonel Nicholas Borlase, of Tre-luddra) has in his possession a charter ("diploma") of William, the son of William the Conqueror, granting to his ancestor Talfer, lord of the Castle of Talfer in Normandy, the estate called Borlase in Cornwall; and this same estate has continued until the present day to be the principal residence of the family, who have married the heiresses of Peytone, Reytone, Trevinor, Boscawen, and Kindone." The family papers, amongst which this charter would naturally have been, descended to Nicholas's son, Humphrey, and were, according to a tradition which there is no reason to doubt, destroyed in the Fire of London. The information they contained it has been our endeavour to replace, and the result of researches conducted in Cornwall, at the Record Office, and elsewhere, has been to place beyond a doubt that the ancient name of the family *was* in reality Taillefer; that they were of French origin; that so far back as the reign of Henry III. they and their ancestors had been true liege-men of the English King "time out of mind;" that there is documentary evidence to prove that the Taillefer living at the close of Henry III.'s reign was the direct ancestor in male line of the present family of Borlase; that between his date and that of William Rufus there were Taillefers resident in Cornwall; that Bysshe's list of heiresses is substantially correct; that a very strong reason indeed existed why the family should have carefully preserved, from the outset, the papers containing the evidence of their lineage and the title to their lands, since, as early as Richard II., they were called on to prove their pedigree in answer to a charge of holding their lands unlawfully as aliens from France; and, in short, that the statement of Bysshe regarding the grant is, for these reasons, presumably true.

Before, however, we proceed to consider the history of the Taillefers of Cornwall, it will not be without interest to enquire what we know of the name in France. Where, for instance, was the "château de Taillefer," and whence did it derive its name? It does not appear to have been in Normandy, as Bysshe states, unless there were two places of the name, but in the principal town of Angoumois, to wit, Angoulême. The original castle was said to have been built by William Taillefer, second of that name, Count of Angoulême, a crusader of great courage and piety, who died in 1028, and was buried at the church of St. Cybard in his native place. The grandson of this William was another William Taillefer, the third Count of the name, who had been disinherited by his uncle Geoffry. Of his descendants we hear nothing; but if he had a son, it is plain that he would have been living in the reign of Rufus, and might fairly have been called "lord of the castle of Taillefer." Now, let us notice a curious coincidence in the history of his father, the disinherited count, and that of another Taillefer who was his contemporary. We know that he would have been in the prime of life at the time of the Norman Conquest; we read also (and this is the striking point) that he went by the nickname of "Chaussard," or "Le Chansart," on account of his addiction to minstrelsy; but beyond these facts we know no more about him than that history does for him what she does for all others in a like position,—dismisses once and for all from her pages the unsuccessful competitor in the race for rank and fortune. Now the question arises—Who would have been more likely than he to have joined the French contingent, which his near neighbour and kinsman, Roger Montgomeri, was raising in this part of France for William of Normandy? Is it so very improbable that we really hear of him on the field of Senlac? Who is the Taillefer, whose exploits on the eve of the battle are thought worthy of being chronicled by historians, both in verse and prose, and whose figure disports itself in the Bayeux tapestry? Is he not described as "Taillefer, qui moult bien cantoit"; and does not the careful critic Mr. Freeman himself (who seems to have overlooked the disinherited minstrel count of Angoulême) suggest that he must most probably have been one of Roger Montgomeri's contingent? The very song of Roland, which the "jongleur" sang, belongs to Aquitaine. Indeed, it is impossible not to notice a coincidence so striking. If he is none other than William Taillefer of Angoulême, the fact that Guy of Amiens and the French Romancers call him "histrio" and "joglere" would count for little. It might merely point to their desire not to offend the usurping relative, and indicate those very traits of character which had rendered him unfit to govern, and unable to hold his own. Without pursuing the subject further, it is clear that, linked with the name of Taillefer at this date, there is a field for further research of a most interesting



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1. THE ARMS OF TAILLEFER, of Perigord (the Cloud and Badelaire added from their Crest).

2. THE ARMS OF BORLASE. (*From a MS. at Norton Conyers*).

historical character, and which, through the minstrel of Hastings, may connect the Taillefers of Cornwall with the ancient family of Angoulême.

It would take a lengthy chapter in the romance literature of the Middle Ages to give anything like an adequate account of all the incidents, mythical and historical, which have centred in the name of Taillefer. If we look at the word etymologically, it would seem to be allied to those other words ending in *fer*, such as *vexillifer*, *lucifer*, *salutifer*, and to the more strictly mediæval terms *dapifer*, *scutifer*, &c., which are distinctly compounded with the Latin *fero*. Eudo "Dapifer," the "food-bearer," was the cup-bearer of William the Conqueror; a name which is said to be still extant in the surname Dupper. Indeed, in a letter of Philip of France in 1290, an actual interpretation of Taillefer appears to be given in the words "per Johannem Talhifer, scutiferum."¹ The first portion of the word, if this be so, would probably be derived from the mediæval form "tacla"; and the meaning would be "weapon-bearer," or, in other words, "thou that art bearing my buckler and bow." One of the earliest French spellings—Taglafer—seems to warrant this derivation. Romance writers and heralds, on the other hand, have built up their legends and drawn their coats and rebuses on the strength of a supposed derivation from "tailler" and "fer," the cutter of iron, which would make the word analogous in composition to Tallebos, Tailbois, or Tallboys (if indeed such is their derivation), and, possibly to the English surnames "Cutwood" and "Cutbush."

The legend which accounts for the origin of the name is given by the chronicler Aimar de Chabanois, who relates that in the tenth century William, Count of Angoulême (grandson of Wulgrin, the first count and kinsman of Charles the Bald), assumed the name of "Taillefer," after having defeated Storis a king of the Northmen in single combat, the reason for his doing so being that he had performed the great knightly achievement of hewing his adversary literally in twain, through breastplate and breastbone, with one single stroke of his good sharp sword, called Corto ("I cut"¹), which the smith Wallander (our Wayland Smith) had forged for him. In connection with this legend it is curious to notice that at the coronation of Henry III. of England a sword was used known as the sword of justice and mercy, forming a part of the regalia of the English Sovereign, and called "Curtain" or "Curtana." The Earl of Chester carried it before the King. It was a flat sword, without a point; looking to which circumstance, and to its also

¹ Letter of Philip in the "Cartulary of the Church of Notre Dame de Paris.

¹ Corto, I cut (Spanish); curto, I cut (Latin).

being entitled a sword of mercy, some etymologists have traced its name to the Latin "*curto*"—to cut. From the ancient arms of Courtejambe, who bore two *badelaires* in fess, we may probably infer that this kind of short sword was the same as is represented by the heraldic "*badelaire*," a kind of cutlass. Now, can it be that the "*Curtain*" was but a survival of the *Corto* or *Cutor* (as it is elsewhere called) of the original *Taillefer*. If so, it is clear that it formed part of the insignia of Henry's mother, Isabella of Angoulême, the last of her family in direct line, and whose ancestor the first *Taillefer* was. The curious point involved in this question will become more apparent, and its interest will be enhanced, when we proceed to describe the early bearing of the French *Taillefers*, and the singular arms (found in, not granted by, the Heralds' College) of Borlase of Cornwall. Of the latter, Sir Edward Bysshe declares, with astonishment, that he knew nothing like them in the heraldic records of any nation. Had it struck him that the coat was a *Taillefer* badge, he could at once have explained it; and had he searched the French heralds' books for the arms of the family of *Taillefer* of Perigord, he would have found a correspondence between the two, which leaves no doubt that the one was merely a "difference" from the other, and that both were rebuses on the name.

The Borlase arms, as found early in the reign of Henry VIII., were—"Erm. on a bend Sa. two arms clothed Arg. (the hands proper) issuing from clouds proper (or in some instances Vair and flaming) rending asunder a horse-shoe (broken in the middle) Or."¹

The arms, or rather the badge of Armand *Taillefer*, Almoner of Brantôme, as found on his seal in 1318, were:—"A hand and arm clothed, holding a sword bendwise, cutting asunder a bar of iron, between 5 mullets (spur-rowels), 2 in chief, and 3 in point."² [Plate I, fig. 1.]

This ancient bearing was transmitted to the *Taillefers* of Perigord, of whom Armand was a collateral ancestor, in the following form:—

"Gu. a right hand and arm clothed Arg. (the hand proper) proceeding from the upper dexter angle of the shield (*i.e.* bendwise) holding a sword Arg. garnished Or, cutting a bar of iron in fess Sa. accompanied by two mullets of 8 rays Or." The crest was "a right hand and arm proper (*i.e.* flesh-colour) clothed Arg., proceeding from a cloud Arg., and holding a *badelaire* [the *Corto*?] Or."³ [Plate I, fig. 1.]

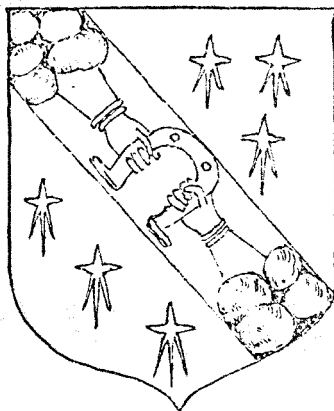
¹ MS. in the College of Arms. [See fac-simile in frontispiece.]

² The seal, says Saint Allais, bears on the upper part the figure of the Virgin Mary, and below—"l'écu, à l'antique, de la maison de Taillefer, qui est d'une main parée d'Argent, taillant une barre de fer, d'une épée d'Or en bande, la main accompagnée de cinq molettes d'éperon, deux en chef et trois en pointe."

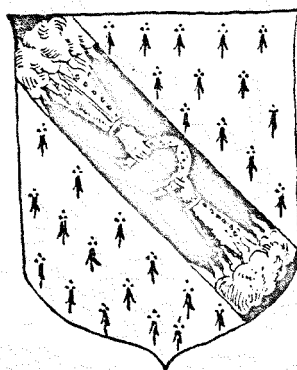
³ The Perigord *Taillefers* appear to have borne the *Taillefer* arms as follows:—

"à l'écu de Gueules, au dextrochere de carnation, paré d'Argent, mouvant de

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1. ARMS OF BORLASE, of Cornwall, used in Deeds of the 17th century.
 (From a Ring dug up in the Parish of St. Just, date circa 1579, in the possession of
 W. C. Borlase, M.P.). Six times the real size.

2. THE BORLASE ARMS, as given by Sir Edward Bysshe in his "Notes on
 Upton de Studio Militari," p. 93 (1654).



E.D.N. 56. 64.

ARMS OF BORLASE, *temp.* HENRY VIII.

(From a MS. in the College of Arms. Communicated by Stephen Tucker, Esq.,
"Somerset Herald").

Now it is clear that by simply placing another hand holding a scimitar (or badelaire) bendwise in the left lower quarter of the shield, we get the appearance of the two hands pulling at a broken horse-shoe; and by making the black bar, the ground work of the bend, and replacing the mullets by ermine, we get the arms of Berlase [Plate II, figs. 1 and 2]; and we obtain the curious fact that an early French rebus of the beginning of the 14th century, had become the coat armour of a Cornish family at the close of the 15th, a coat which (though often misunderstood by English heralds—two fishes having been inserted in one case [Plate III] and a scroll [Plate I, fig. 2] in another) has remained the bearing of the family to the present day.

We have noticed that, according to the French genealogists, the grandfather of William, who was first named Taillefer, was Wulgrin, who was created count of Perigord and Angoulême by his kinsman Charles the Bald. He married Rogerhinde, daughter of Bernard Duke of Toulouse; and after having fought several engagements with the Northmen, died on May 3rd, 886. He was succeeded by his son Aldwin, who died according to the chronicle of Angoulême on the 27th of March, 916, and was buried at the church of St. Cybard.

His only son was William, surnamed Taillefer, whose inheritance, as he left no legitimate issue, was disputed between his son Armand Taillefer, called Manzer, or the Bastard, and a cousin, also called Armand, surnamed Bouration, or Voratio, who made himself master of Angoulême on the death of William. After a fierce struggle for the inheritance, during which Armand the Bastard slew Ranulph the brother of Armand in single combat, the countship of Angoulême became established in the illegitimate line.

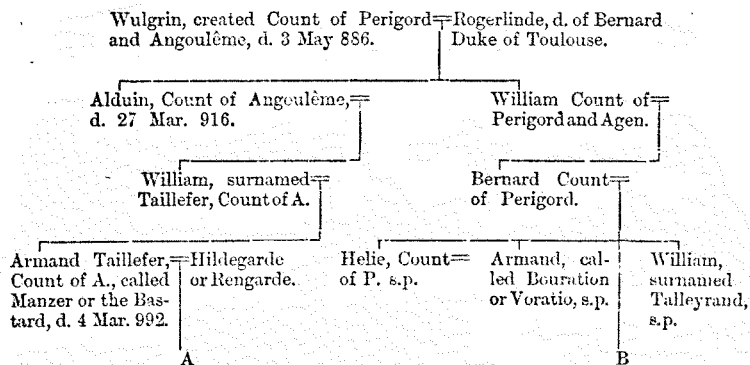
Armand founded the abbey of St. Armand, and dying March 4th, 992, was buried at St. Cybard in the habit of a monk. The affix or "to-name" of Taillefer, which had been adopted by him, was continued by his direct descendants. He had married Hildegarde, or Rengarde . . . , by whom he had a son William Taillefer II., Count of Angoulême, who married Girberge, or Gilbergue, daughter of Geoffry Grisgonelle, Count of Anjou, and Grand Master of France. He was a man of great courage and piety, and the intimate friend and adviser of William, Duke of Aquitaine, and Count of Poitou, who gave him lands at Melle, Aunay, Rochechouart, Chabanais, Confolens, and Ruffec. He was said to have built the "château de Taillefer" in Angoulême. In 1026 he went to the Holy Land, and,

l'angle dextre supérieur, tenant une épée du même, en bande garnie d'Or, taillant une barre de fer de Sabies en barre; accompagnées de deux molettes d'éperon d'Or à huit rais, une en chef, et l'autre en pointe. The crest is—"un dextrochère de carnation, mouvant d'un nuage d'Argent, paré du même, et tenant un badelaire d'Or.

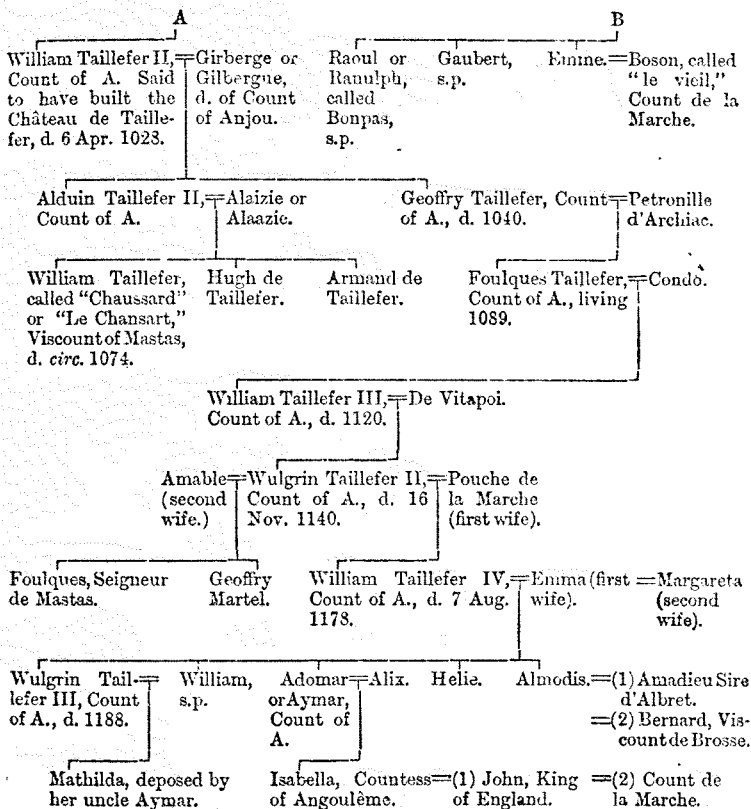
dying April 6th, 1028, was buried in the abbey church of St. Cybard.

He left two sons, Alduin, who succeeded him as Alduin Taillefer II., Count of Angoulême, said to have been poisoned by his wife Alaizie, or Alaaz, in 1030 or 1032; and Geoffry, of whom presently. William Taillefer, "Le Chansart," was Alduin's eldest son. He was Viscount of Mastas, or Matha, and he possessed half Fronsac in right of his mother, who was daughter of Grimoard, one of the first Viscounts of Fronsac, by Dea de Montignac. He was dispossessed, as we have seen, by his uncle Geoffry, who seized Angoulême, and became count on the death of his brother Alduin. In "L'Art de Vérifier les Dates," it is said of him that the name Taillefer was continued to him (although he was the representative of a collateral branch, by which it is clear that until then it was only inherited in the direct male line) on account of his feats of strength in cleaving helms and cuirasses. He died in 1040. His descendant in the fifth generation was Wolgrin Taillefer, count of Angoulême, who, after waging war against the English, died in 1188, leaving a daughter and heiress Mathilda. This Mathilda was deposed by her uncle Adomar or Aymar, in whom the name of Taillefer does not seem to have been revived. He married Alix, the divorced wife of the Count de Joigni, who was the grand-daughter of Peter de Courtenai, son of Louis le Gros. Count Aymar left one daughter and heiress, Isabella, who was first the wife of John, King of England, and secondly of the Count de la Marche.¹

DESCENT OF THE COUNTS OF ANGOULÊME.



¹ It seems that Cornish families were proud of their descent from Richard, King of the Romans, and King John. In a magnificent pedigree of the Robartes family at Lanhydrock (drawn up at the commencement of the seventeenth century), there are coloured *riguettes* of John; of "Isabella Taillefer" his wife: of Richard, King of the Romans; and of Henry III. The family who bore the name of 'Cornwall' was descended from Richard King of the Romans.



From a younger branch of the family of these counts of Angoulême, whose arms they bore (with their own badge on a scutcheon of pretence), were descended, according to St. Allais, the Taillefers of Perigord. From a rent-roll made in 1203 of their estates, and those of the family of Cozens, it appears that they were considerable landowners at that early period in the neighbourhood of Perigueux. A gate, a street, and a faubourg in that town were called by their name; and their residence was the Château de Grignols. Several of their patrimonial properties bore their name, such as Talhaferie, Pommier Talhaferencis, and the like. From the same deeds they appear to have been connected with the commerce of Bordeaux and the west coast of France in the early part of the 14th century. In 1327, for example, Hélie de Taillefer sells a ship called "The Ship," or "Vessel Dieu," carrying five tuns of wine or thereabouts, which had been captured in war by the English

of Bordeaux, and which he and others had purchased of Armand Beulaigne for the consideration of 200 quarters of salt, Bordeaux measure. In the island of Oleron they had another château called Meray, which in 1281 belonged to William Taillefer, knight, son of William Taillefer and Fine de Mauriac, which latter, says St. Allais, was incontestably the grandson of the person who caused the rent-roll to be made in 1203. For upwards of 700 years (as the same writer, who devotes no less than 60 pages to their history tells us), in direct succession, this family of Taillefer continued in possession of the ancestral estates, until the male line became extinct in the person of Count Wulgrin de Taillefer, who in 1822 published a work on the antiquities of Vesone, and died leaving two daughters.

Returning now to the Taillefers in Cornwall, we find that the first one mentioned in the Rolls (after the one to whom Bysshe declares that Rufus granted Borlase), is William Talevar, who excuses himself on account of illness (*de languore*) from attendance at the Assize held at Launceston in the 3rd of John (1201-2).¹ In the succeeding generation (19 Hen. III., 1234-5), we find the name of Richard Taillefer as one of the "liberi tenentes" of the Bishops of Exeter, holding land in Cornwall.² A quarter of a century later we find Richard Taylefer, one of the defendants in a suit brought by the Abbot of Sherborne relating to the manor of Licheham in Devon, and in relation to which a plea is entered to transfer it to the court of Richard, "King of Almayn."³

¹ Coram Rege Roll, 3 John, No. 9.

² *Testa de Nevill*, p. 202.

³ DEVON.—John Brun, essoin of the Abbot of *Shyreborn*, offers himself on the fourth day against Philip le Teynturer, John de Fenton, William le Granger, *Richard Taillefer*, John de Deuelys, Richard de Karswell, Nicholas Treys-deners, Godfrey le Clerc, John de Windesores, Nicholas de Ivelcestre, Thomas de Langedon, and Martin Werling, of a plea wherefore they deforce from the same Abbot and his men of *Likham* the passage of the Water of Chekfan at Likham, and the sale of sea-fish there, which the same Abbot and his men ought to have; and also they distrain men arriving (applicants) in his fee to give toll to the prejudice and grievance of the same Abbot &c. And they come not &c. And they were summoned &c. Judgment: let them be attached, that they be (here) in the Octaves of the Purification of the Blessed Mary (Hilary term) &c.—*De Banco Roll*, 45-46 Hen. III., Mich., No. 16, m. 62.

DEVON.—The Abbot of *Shirburn* by his attorney v. Philip le Teynturer, John de Fenton, Richard le Graunger, *Richard Taylefer*, John Deneliz, Richard de Karswell, Nicholas Treydeners, Godfrey le Clerc, John de Wyndesor, Nicholas de Ivelcestre, Thomas de Langedon, and Martin Derling, of a plea wherefore they deforced from him and his men of the *Manor of Licheham* the passage of the water of Chekestan at Licheham, and the sale of sea-fish there, which the Abbot and his men ought to have; and they also distrained men arriving (applicants) in the Abbot's fee to give toll, to the Abbot's prejudice, &c. The defendants did not appear, and made many defaults. The sheriff is to have their bodies (here) in Trinity term next. "And hereupon comes William Paschet, and prays the Court of the Lord Richard, King of Almayn, therein &c."—*Coram Rege Rolls* (*Tower Records*), No. 28. "Easter, 44 (46?) Henry III," m. 7, d.

[NOTE.—This Roll is certainly for "Easter term," but the year "44 Henry III." is supplied by a modern hand, and must be incorrect, because on m. 13 (dorse

In the latter part of the 13th century we arrive at the William Frank Taillefer of Borlas Frank Taillefer, with whom the pedigree, which is capable of absolute documentary proof, commences. His name is variously spelt Tailfer, Taillyfer, and Taillifer, and the word Frank, meaning French, is added (in a document to which we shall presently allude) at the end of the 14th century, as a distinctive appellation both in his own case and in that of his residence, which is styled Borlas Frank, or Borlas Taillyfer (compare Stanstead Mount Fychet, Stanton Harcourt, &c.) It was of him that a jury found in the reign of Richard II. that not only had it been proved that he had died seized of this same "villa de Borlas Frank," but that he had been born and bred there, and that his ancestors had been true liege-men of the King and his ancestors "a tempore quo non extat memoria." It may be noted that the name of William Taillefer occurs no less than four times in contemporaneous records:—(1) In the pedigree of the Perigord family as we have seen; (2) In the "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland," where, under date Oct. 1, 1288, William Taillefer is one of the Commissioners who testify to the extent of the estate of Thomas de Clare at Youghal;¹ (3) In the *Rotuli Hundredorum*² for the County of Kent, where, in the reign of Edward I., William Taillefer holds land of Radulphus Pyot; (4) In the Additional Charters in the British Museum,³ where, in the 13th century, William Tallifer holds land in Bas Folyne of the Monastery of S. Michel. Whether he is to be identified with any or either of these it is impossible to say. William was succeeded by his son John Frank Taillyfer, *alias* Tailfer, *alias* John Frank (*i.e.* French John) de Borlas, in respect of whose title to Borlas it was contended (as against his grandson) in the reign of Richard II.,⁴ that he had been "an alien sprung from Brittany, an enemy and a rebel to the realm of England, in the time of the war which was waged between Edward, King of England, Richard's grandfather, and the French," and that, therefore, the lands which he thus acquired, without Royal Warrant, should be forfeit to the Crown. It is noticeable that in the Report of the Commissioners⁵ appointed to enquire into this matter in 1399 the charges of enmity and rebellion are dropped, and it is simply averred that John Franc Tailfer, an alien, born in "Britannia Gallon," and of French lineage, possessed himself of lands and tenements in Borlas Frank and Bossoghammuir without the

it is stated that a certain action was commenced on 19th October, 45 Hen. III. The date of this roll is therefore, probably, Easter term, 46 Hen. III. This Roll is among the "Tower" Coram Rege Rolls, but may belong to the Common Pleas=De Banco. See De Banco Roll, Mich. 45-46 Hen. III. No. 16, m. 62.]

¹ Inq. p.m. 16 Edw. I., No. 71.

² Vol. ii, p. 577.

³ No. 13,446.

⁴ Patent Roll, 21 Rich. II., part i, m. 23, d.

⁵ Coram Rege Roll, 22 Rich. II., Easter, m. 5 (2 nrs.).

Royal warrant, the which lands and tenements were held "of others than of us"; that is, not "in capite." To the further contention set up at the trial, we shall come in due course. Meanwhile we have a curious notice of John Tayllefer, to which, since it illustrates the state of local affairs at the time, we may refer at length. In the Assize Rolls for Cornwall in the 34th of Edward I. (1305-6),¹ appears the trial of certain persons for entering and plundering a ship belonging to John de Ferendu, a Spanish merchant, lying in what was then the important Cornish sea-port, the port of Mousehole. The judges were W. Martin, H. Spigurnel, G. de Knouille, R. de Bella Fago, and Thomas de la Hyde, who was also Lord Warden of the Stannaries. The names of the defendants were William Cosyn (a name both in Cornwall and Perigord perpetually found side by side with that of Taillefer), William Talcran, Ranulph de Boshorn, Constancia de Boscawen, and William de Alcam, Henry Aubyn, Philip Sulgene, Ralph son of Alionora de Tredyn, Walter son of Reginald de Tredyn, John Dausoun, Thomas Burwyk, Henry Tyndogges, Lawrence de Boscawen, Richard Kaer, John son of Thomas de Rosemoddress, Jocelyne de Boleygon, Roger Calwe, Robert son of Horde, Henry brother of Roger Calwe, Ralph Foel, Robert Ethen, John Tayllefer, Philip Hona, and William Stalbe. The goods and chattels which formed the cargo, and which they are accused of carrying off were wax, Cordovan leather, onions, hides, bales of white skins from Bogèye, 30 chests of silver cups, gold and silver money, robes, armour, cloth of gold, rabbit skins, and other goods to the value of £9000 sterling. The defence set up in the case of the first five prisoners was that they were tinnerns and could not, therefore, be tried except by a jury of tinnerns; and after Thomas de la Hyde had testified to this fact, they were accordingly relegated, under this singular old Cornish custom, to his tribunal as Lord Warden. In the case of the next seven, it was successfully pleaded that they had been tried, convicted and punished already. As to the others, beginning with Lawrence Boscawen, and including John Tayllefer (with the exception of two who were acquitted), they were convicted, damages in small amounts being found against them, and they were, in addition, committed to gaol. What was the real significance of this curious case it is difficult to say: whether it was an actual case of deliberate plunder on the part of the marauding population in the neighbourhood, or whether it was justified on the ground of any existing war, or of any obligation on the part of the merchant, it is beyond our power to settle. The presence of a lady, Constancia de Boscawen, is a curious element in the proceedings.

(To be continued.)

¹ Assize Rolls, Cornwall M. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3, m 4, d.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF BORLASE.

(Continued from p. 14.)

The only other reliable reference to this free lance John Frank¹ of Borlas is when his name appears in the Assize Rolls on a Jury list in the 10th of Edward III. (1327).²

John Frank Taillyfer had two sons—Andrew and Noel. Andrew Frank Tailfer, mentioned in the *Coram Rege* Roll as the inheritor of Borlas Frank, died leaving one daughter, Alice Frank Tailfer, about whom we may notice three things. First, that on the death of her father the real estate passed to her instead of going in the male line to her uncle. Second, that as she bore the full name of Frank Tailfer, it is clear that that name had by this time become a genuine surname, and that it was not applied to men only, as a mere official term, had it been such, would have been. Third, that she was the last of the family who bore the name of Taillefer, which reminds us that in the case of the Counts of Angoulême, it was only the direct line who bore it, and that, although it was revived in the case of Count Geoffry on account of special prowess in arms, it does not seem to have been taken up, so far as we can learn, either by Count Aymar, younger son of William Taillefer IV., or by his daughter Isabella, the wife of John, although the recent heralds

¹ Unless the three following notices of the name may refer to him :—

CORNWALL.—Vivian Tyrel, junior, *v.* John Fitz Andrew, Richard de Podyford, and others, including *John le Fraunke*. The Sheriff was ordered to attach Defendants, and returned that most of them had been attached by certain persons named. John le Fraunke was attached by John Trenautos (or Trenantros ?) and John Jormel. Others of the Defendants had not been found, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain them, and to have their bodies before the King in Hilary Term. [*Coram Rege Roll, Mich., 2 Edw. II. m. 18.*]

CORNWALL.—John Fitz Andrew and others, including *John le Fraunke*, were in mercy (amerced) for many defaults.

The same John and the others were attached to make answer to Vivian Tyrel, junior, of a plea wherefore by force and arms, by night, they depastured the corn of the same Vivian to the value of £20, lately growing at *Scoria*, and did other wrongs, &c. He complains that they did this on Thursday after St. Peter ad Vincula 1 Edw. II. at *Galgoullon Mor*, the corn being rye and oats.

The Defendants pointed out that in the writ the trespass was alleged to have been done at *Scoria*, whereas the Plaintiff now alleges it to have been done at *Galgoullon Mor*, and they pray judgment on the writ.

Judgment for Defendants accordingly, &c. [*Coram Rege Roll, Hilary, 2 Edw. II. m. 23, d.*]

CORNWALL.—William Blundel *v.* Agnes le Pridiaus, John Sampson, and others, of a plea of trespass. Defendants did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to distrain them.

John Frank and three others mainprised John Sampson. Adjourned to Michaelmas term, &c. [*Coram Rege Roll, Trinity, 4 Edw. II. No. 16, m. 53.*]

² Div. Co., N^o 24.

have assigned it to her. On the death of Alice the property reverted to her first cousin Andrew, son of Noel Borlas, or de Borlas, a younger son of John Frank Taillefer, who was born about the year 1320, and married Agnes . . . daughter of Desiderata de Trevysek, the daughter and heiress of Robert de Trevysek and Agnes his wife, to whom, in the reign of Henry III., Nicholas Noundeden had granted lands, as we gather from a claim, made by Agnes the wife of Noel, to land in 'Trevysek juxta Pencarowe,' in 1395.¹ This Noel de Borlas is mentioned in 1347-8 as one of three defendants (the others being Adam son of John de Tewyn and Aunger de Treliner) to a charge of unjust eviction from land in Rosenonnen (Rosemannon in St. Wenn) brought against them by one Ranulph, son of Laurence le Coiner (no doubt, a coiner of tin), and Iracula his wife. Adam fails to prove his charge though he contends that he holds his lands, with Esolda his wife, by grant from John Tewyn, and brings the deed dated 1318-9, the 12th of Edward II.² The same Roll³ which contains this trial contains another in which one Michael Cosyn is represented (*posuit loco suo*) by Noel Borlas, another instance out of many of the connexion between these two families, who we have reason to suspect were closely related, and may have arrived from France together. Noel died before the year 1395, and had for his son and heir Andrew Borlas of Borlas Frank Taillyfer, born in or about the year 1358, as we learn from an Inquisition taken at Bodmin on the Monday before the Feast of St. Michael in the 4th year of Henry V. (1403),⁴ where "the aforesaid Andrew being then of the age of 45 and upwards, states that he remembers John Lanhergy being baptized at Bodmin, because he was present on that occasion, namely, on the 8th of February 1391." In 1383 Andrew appears as attorney for Thomas Arfos against Thomas Cary of Tregony and Odo his son, on the plea that they with force of arms broke into his house at Tregony, insulted, beat, wounded, and maltreated him, and inflicted other enormities upon him (as the legal verbiage of the time puts it) much to his hurt and to the disturbance of the peace of the realm.⁵ On several other occasions we find him acting in a like capacity, once on behalf of his own mother⁶, and again for John Trewarthian,⁷ for John Coly de Brevyan⁸, and for Philip Penhesken;⁹ in all which cases proof is afforded of the great uncertainty which existed in those days as to the devolution and tenure of land, and of the rough and ready methods, ending generally in litigation, which were put in practice in order to

¹ De Banco, 1 Rich. II. Mich. ro. 459.

² Assize Rolls, Div. Co. N^o 136, m. 5, d.

³ *Ib.* m. 3, d.

⁴ Inq. p.m. 4 Hen. V. No.

⁵ De Banco, 7 Rich. II., Trin., ro. 276.

⁶ De Banco, 1 Rich. II., Mich. ro. 459.

⁷ De Banco, 12 Rich. II. Hil. ro. 240.

⁸ *Ib.* ro. 336, d.

⁹ *Ib.* ro. —

establish a title. Once he appears on his own account, with Geoffry Tregarne, against William Hode and John Wolleh, for destroying their crops at Tregarne.¹ In the 18th of Richard II. (1394-5) he was Member of Parliament for Truro.

In 1397, and for several years afterwards, Andrew Borlas was subjected to the vexatious and tyrannical proceedings, to which we have already alluded, in the matter of the title of his grandfather, John Frank Taillefer, to the estate of Borlas Frank. One glance at the condition of England at this time will suffice to show that much credit is due to him for the persistent and courageous manner in which, as an individual standing out against the king, he fought his case to a successful issue. The bright expectations with which the opening years of Richard the Second's reign had been ushered in, had by this time (1397) been completely blighted. The patience of the Commons had been utterly exhausted by the unconstitutional practices introduced under Royal authority, and the dissatisfaction of the people, stimulated by forced loans, had reached its climax. In order that fines might flow into the Royal coffers, whole districts had been denied the protection of the law. Justice had been tampered with to serve the king's purposes. Titles to property were challenged by the escheators of the Crown in order that warrants of permission to hold the lands in security might be purchased; and pardons for trumped up offences were bought and sold. Some few persons, as we may suppose, who could afford to do so, in order to save their lands, were bold enough to resist the temptation to suffer robbery for the sake of compromise, and, carrying their grievances into court, appealed to "their country," as an appeal to the verdict of a jury was called. Andrew adopted this course, and after repeated delays and postponements, a Jury was empanelled at Launceston, consisting of those who, residing in the district, might reasonably be supposed to know the truth of the matter. Whether any action of Andrew's in the House of Commons, as member for Truro, had been the occult reason of the attempt to dispossess him of his estate, does not appear. The result at all events, was triumphant. Every point which it was thought necessary to urge was admitted by the jury. His family was proved by evidence, only a portion of which, unfortunately, it has been thought sufficient to preserve, to have held the estate 'a tempore quo non exstat memoria' until the end of the 13th century, and a title to it was established which continued it in the family for three centuries following.

In the year 1401 the name of Andrew Borlas occurs in connexion with the county of Surrey, and affords a singular instance of the manner in which names were acquired. "Andreas Borlas"

¹ De Banco, 12 Rich. II. Hil., ro. 217, d.

appears by his attorney as plaintiff in a case in which "Ralph Andreusservant Borlas," his servant, had been insulted by certain defendants at Hoke.¹ There is more than one reason for supposing that Andrew Borlas was a merchant engaged in trade in the seaport towns of Cornwall and elsewhere. He had property both in Fowey and Penryn. In 1408 he, together with his wife Amicia . . . , remit and quitclaim to John Cadevan of Fowy, "taillour," a plot of ground in that town²; and in the next year we find him complainant in a case in which he contends that Alianora, who was the wife of Thomas Methle, and Thomas Lusy and Joan his wife, unjustly disseised him of his property in Penryn.³

It is rather a remarkable coincidence that one Andrew Telzepher (the Scottish spelling of Taillefer) was Clerk of the Chancellor in Scotland in 1418, and is witness to the confirmation in that year of a charter by King Robert III. to James Lindsay, Lord Crawford, in 1390, granting to John Telzepher the lands of Harecleugh, which formerly belonged to his uncle William Telzepher.⁴ He was clearly a contemporary, and was perhaps a relative of Andrew Borlas, and was one of a family which subsequently appear in history as merchants and ship-owners of Edinburgh,⁵ carrying on an extensive Flemish trade in the latter part of the 15th century.

After the death of Andrew Borlas in or about 1414, his widow Amicia married, secondly, John Botreaux of Botreaux-Mesek. By Andrew she left a son and heir, Mark Borlas, whom we hear of first in an Exchequer Roll (2 Hen. V.)⁶ when one Richard Borlas was called on in error by the Sheriff to account for the lands of the deceased Andrew. This Richard was the son of a John Borlas,⁷ who was probably a younger son of Noel, in which case he would be Mark's first cousin. He had two brothers, Thomas and John,⁸ the latter of whom was probably the ancestor of a branch of the Borlases, settled at St. Austell and Padstow. The name of Mark Borlas occurs several times in contemporary rolls, in which he is variously described as of "Borlas Frank, and Fowy, Gentilman."⁹ In 1432-3 he was Mem-

¹ De Banco, 2 Hen. IV. Hil. ro. 470, *d.*

² Feet of Fines, 9 Hen. IV.

³ Assize Roll, Div. Co. N^o. 4, ro. 96.

⁴ Nisbet's *Heraldry*, vol. i, p. 149.

⁵ 'Haliburton's Ledger.'

⁶ Memoranda Roll. L.T.R., 2 Hen. V. Trin. "Communia," ro. 10.

⁷ Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 10, memb. 160. See also Assize Rolls, Divers Counties, N^o. 3, 2 Hen. V., m. 21; and "Attorney Roll," m. 23; *ibid.*, N^o. 5, 1 Hen. V., m. 11. *dorso*.

⁸ See Inquisition taken at Bodmin: (Book of Knights' Fees, Anno 6 Hen. VI. Excheq. Miscell. Books, vol. 4, fol. 49), also, De Banco, Mich. 10 Hen. VII., m. 171.

⁹ Coram Rege, 3 Hen. VI. Trin. ro. 83; 3 Hen. VI. East. ro. 62, *d.*; De Banco, 8 Hen. VI. Mich. ro. 300; Coram Rege, 13 Hen. VI. Mich. ro. 76.

ber of Parliament for Helston. He married Alice (Moyle?)¹ who, after his death, which occurred prior to 1452, married William Benalva. In the *Coram Rege* Rolls (1452-3),² we find a suit instituted by this William Benalva against Thomas Payn and Joan his wife, and against Edith who was the wife of John Thomas, in respect of dower due to his wife as the widow of Mark. Johanna and Edith were Mark's daughters, perhaps by a former wife, and he had given them, as marriage portions, certain estates in Langorthowe and Fowey, a third part of which it was successfully contended belonged to their father's widow. Besides these two daughters, Mark Borlas had at least two sons, John Borlas, or Burlas, of "Borlas Frank et Fowy," and Roger Borlas of Borlas Frank, "Gentilman," who, together with Thomas Borlas of Borlas Burgys, of whom we shall presently speak, appears as defendant in a case of trespass in the 33rd year of Hen. VI.³

These were troublous times in the West country. The murderous wars of the Roses, which were ultimately to bear good fruit in humbling the pride and reducing the influence of the great landed nobles of the country, were unfortunately, during the time they lasted, bearing bitter fruit in the spirit of personal animosity and lawlessness which sprang up in the rural districts. The annals of this family are alone sufficient evidence that in the words of Wordsworth—

"When evil men are strong
No life is good, no pleasure long."

Here are a few instances relating to John Borlas, in which the law was called in to settle the matter in dispute. In Easter Term, 1452,⁴ he appears by his attorney against John Trelyner of Trelyner, husbandman, who, with force and arms had broken into the house of the said John 'Burlas' at Burlas, and assaulted the said John Burlas at Seynt Wenna, and had come to the said vill of Burlas, and carried off a horse of the value of 40s. Again, in Michaelmas Term, 6 Edw. IV., the same plaintiff appears by his attorney against John Kyndone, late of Bodmyn, clerk, and others, charging them with breaking his close at Bodmyn and Borlas Frank.⁵ The *De Banco* Rolls for the next year (1467) record an action brought by the same John Burlas against three persons for breaking into his closes and houses at "Burlas Frank and Fowy."⁶ The fourth and last, however, involves the most serious charge, and possibly resulted in the.

¹ The Moyle arms are quartered in this generation in the coat given in Tonkin's MSS., as copied by Dr. Borlase in his MS. Family History of Cornwall, in the possession of W. C. Borlase, M.P.

² De Banco, 31 Hen. VI. Mich. ro. 303, d. and 31 Hen. VI. Hil. ro. 430, d.

³ De Banco, Mich. 33 Hen. VI., memb. 400, d.

⁴ De Banco, 30 Hen. VI. East. ro. 162, d.

⁵ De Banco, 6 Edw. IV. Mich. ro. 68.

⁶ De Banco, 7 Edw. IV. Mich. ro. 67, d.

death of his son and heir, John Borlas, which we know to have been premature, since Walter Borlas, his son, seems to have inherited direct from his grandfather John Borlas, senior.¹ The *De Banco* Roll of Easter Term, 10 Edw. IV.² contains the following:—"John Borlas, by his attorney, against Mathew Brenstone of Wythyelle, 'milner,' Thomas Brentone, late of Wythyelle, husbandman, and John Kendall, late of Fowy, 'cordewaner,' on a plea that they not only broke into the closes and houses of the said John at Fowy and Seyntwenna, but assaulted John Borlas, junior, his servant, at the aforesaid vill of Seyntwenna, and beat and wounded and ill-treated him, on account of which the said John was for a long time deprived of the services of his said servant," who was of course his son. This John Borlas, senior, (to judge from a coat of arms formerly in Newlyn East Church³) married the heiress of Trevinor, and had a son John, who married Margaret Kingdon (whose second husband was Thomas(?) Tregian) and who, dying before his father, left at least two sons—Walter Borlas, who succeeded his grandfather, and Edward Borlas, of both of whom we shall presently have occasion to speak.⁴ With regard to the sides which the members of the family may have been supposed to have taken during the wars of the Roses, it is interesting to note that the probability that they were, in common with most Cornishmen, Lancastrians, is strengthened by the fact that early in the reign of Henry VIII. the crest of Walter Borlas appears in the Heralds' College as:—a Boar's head couped at the neck, bendy of six, Or and Sab. *between two red roses*. We shall presently see that another branch of the family, who were their next door neighbours, bore their share in the struggles of the time of Richard III., on the side of the Duke of Richmond.

Before pursuing the history of the main line, which is continued in Walter, or that of an important branch which takes its rise from his brother Edward, it will be found of interest to retrace our steps to an Andrew Borlas, who, being a contem-

¹ De Banco, 23 Hen. VIII., memb. 595, where John Borlas, senior, is spoken of as "*Avus predicti Walteri, cujus heres ipse est.*"

² Roll 60.

³ See MS. Family History, by Dr. Borlase,—confirmed by the list of heiresses in Sir Edward Bysshe, previously noticed.

⁴ The proofs of this are as follows:—(1) Walter Borlas was the son of John Borlas (see De Banco Roll, East. 10 Ed. IV., Roll 60; also, note in Heralds' College, and Frontispiece); (2) Edward Borlas was Walter's brother, as we know from Edward's will (P.C.C. 1543); (3) In the same will, Edward Borlas mentions his mother Margaret Tregyan, therefore, she was John's wife and presumably Walter's mother also; (4) But Margaret Tregyan (*als.* Tregain, Tregian, Treicain, &c.) was the eldest of the three married daughters of William Kingdon, mentioned in his will in 1515 (P.C.C.), the other two being—Jane Lamylion and Agnes Maynard. Margaret's second husband was, probably, the Thomas Tregian whose will was proved (P.C.C.) in 1519-20 by John Tregian, his son, and Margaret, his widow. There was a close connection between the Borlases and the Tregians, as we shall see in the sequel.

porary of Mark, bearing the same Christian name as his (Mark's) father, and, moreover, settling his descendants at the next place to Borlas Frank—called Borlas Burgess, or Middle Borlas—may fairly be supposed to be a younger son of Andrew Borlas, M.P. for Truro.

It is a fortunate circumstance for the genealogist that in the case of this branch, as well as in that of the elder one, there is in existence the record of a trial extending over a period of no less than six generations, which establishes beyond question the paternity in each successive step of the pedigree. Andrew Borlas is first mentioned in 1424-5 in an Assize Roll under the heading "*Assi'a de lesard* [the Lizard or Lescard ?] *et alibi*."¹ He married Katherine, daughter and heiress of Thomas Polsagh of Polsagh; and it is with regard to her inheritance in Polsagh, Trefrydowe, Grymscott, and Knolle, that the trial to which we have referred took place.² The matter was opened at the Launceston Assizes before John Martyn and John Cottesmore, the Justices. Richard Langedon brings an action against Andrew and Katherine Borlas, and five other defendants, for unjustly disseizing him of his free tenement in Grimescote, and 20s. of rent. The pleadings state that John Langedon, father of the plaintiff, in the reign of Richard II., gave the property to Stephen Polsaghe and his heirs for thirty years, at a rent of a grain of corn, and after that for 20s. a year, to be paid quarterly; and that, subsequently, the same John Langedon, under the name of Overelangedon, remitted and quit-claimed the possession of the tenements in the vill of Grimescote to the said Stephen Polsaghe. Richard Langedon on his part denied having been a party to any such transaction, and stated that, on the expiration of the thirty years, the estate should have been his. The case was postponed for the production of witnesses to the original grant alleged to have been made by John Langedon to his son Richard. What was the end of it has not been ascertained, but, after the lapse of nearly a century (*i.e.*, in 1535), we find it cropping up again³ in the person of Andrew's great-grandson, Thomas Burlace, who claims the Polsagh property, consisting of Polsagh, Trefrydowe, Grymscott, and Knolle, as the son and heir of Thomas Burlace, the son and heir of Thomas Burlace, the son and heir of Andrew Burlace, who married Katherine, the heiress of Thomas Polsagh. The defendants at this date were Richard Carwarthan, Robert Croker and Joan his wife, John Warde, William Mannyng, Edward Hidon, Richard Langedon, and John Hidon. The witnesses examined were—John Roche of the parish of Seynt Colombe, "Tynner," of the age of 80 years; Aleyn Nicholas of Seynt Wen,

¹ Assize Rolls, Cornwall, M₃₅4.

² Assize Rolls, Divers Counties, N₂2.

³ Town Depositions, (Chancery), 27 Hen. VIII. Bundle 2.

"Tailor," of the age of 56 years; and Reynold Benerlek of Seynt Probus, "Yemen," of the age of 50 years. The contention now was that Stephen Polsagh, who died seized of the estates in question, gave them "unto Thomas his son and Thomas his brother;" to have and to hold to them and to the heirs male of the said Thomas his son; and in default of such issue male, then the said premises to remain to Thomas the brother and his heirs male; and, in default, to Walter Polsagh, second son of Stephen, and to his heirs male; and, in default, to John Polsagh, son of Walter the brother of Stephen, and his heirs male; and, in default, to the right heirs of Stephen for ever. Now, Thomas the son and Thomas the uncle died seized of these lands without male issue; but Thomas the son had issue a daughter, Katherine, "by reason whereof," so Roche deposes, "the premises descended unto the said Katheryn, as cosyn and heire unto the said Stephyn, that is to say, as daughter and heire unto the said Thomas, the son and heire of the said Stephyn." "But whether John Polsagh was at any time seised of the premises this deponent knoweth not, but as by report. And Katheryn, beyng married to oon Andrew Burlace, father to Thomas, father to Thomas, father to this plaintiff, entered upon the premises, and outlived the said Andrew, her husband, and took the profits of them during her life."

We shall return to this trial again. Meanwhile, Andrew had issue by Katherine Polsagh—Thomas Burlace his only son and heir. The only two notices of this Thomas show that he played his part among the pugnacious spirits of the times in which he lived. In 1451, William Trevenour proceeds against "Thomas Borlas of Borlas Burgis, Gentilman," and others, for assaulting him "at Geyre near to Lamoran."¹ In 1454, he is mentioned as Thomas Burlace of Borlasburgys, "Gentilman," being defendant in a plea of trespass together with his cousins, as we may suppose them to have been—John Borlas and Roger Borlas of Borlasfrank.² In the Rolls which contain these entries the name of the seat of this second branch of the family occurs for the first time. Of the ancient manor-house of Borlas Burgess, or Middle Borlase, as it is now called, nothing remains; a neat, small, modern farm-house having taken its place. It adjoins Borlas Frank-Taillefer, or Lower Borlase, on the north-west, and lies between it and Borlase-varth, or Higher Borlase, in the parish of St. Columb-Major. It was the seat, as we shall see, of these Borlases until the reign of Elizabeth, and was regarded by the historian Hals (who confused it with Borlase-Frank) as the seat of the principal branch of the family. Thomas "Burlace," as the name now came to be spelt, married Isabella . . . , and

¹ De Banco, 30 Hen. VI., Mich.

² De Banco Roll, 33 Hen. VI, Mich., Roll 400, d.

died in or about 1484-5; in which year, she, being his widow claims dower in certain estates which must have belonged to her husband in addition to those of Polsagh and Borlās, namely—in Fynten-Woren, Nether Egglousnewlyn (Newlyn Church Town), Gonwynowe, Royton, Kernek Cosyn, and Bosaneth.¹

Thomas and Isabella had for their son and heir Thomas Burlace, “whiche Thomas,” says old Roche, the first deponent in the above-mentioned trial, “goyng by yond the Sea, by the comandment of therle of Devonshire, about such tyme as his sayd Father died, came not home ageyn, to entre upon the premisses, unto such tyme as there was a feld kept uppon Blakheth; where he beyng tacon prysoner, all the premisses weer seassyd into the king’s hands; and, aftir that, beyng letto bayle by iiii sewerties, came home to Burlace, where he, withyn halfe a yere then next foloyng, died.” In another of the depositions it is stated that Thomas was “lett to bayle at the request of the Erle of Devonshire.” The two circumstances here referred to, namely—(1) the rising in the west in 1483 against the usurper Richard III., and the subsequent flight of the Courtenays into Brittany to join the Duke of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII; and (2) the rebellion of Flammock and Joseph, in 1497, terminating in the battle of “blakhethfeyld,” as it is called in these documents, are among the most singular episodes of Cornish history. Of the rising in 1483, as far as Cornwall was concerned, little or nothing seems to have been known, until, recently, an interesting document relating to it was discovered among the papers of the late Mr. Le Grice of Trereife.² This document is an Inquisition taken at “Bodmyn” on the 3rd of December, 1483, and relates to an *émeute* which had taken place in that town on that day month, namely, the 3rd of November. The Commissioners appointed to enquire into the circumstances were,—John Scrope of Bolton, Knt., Edward Redmayn, Halnethus Mauleverer, and Peter Seyntaubyn. It appeared that Peter (Courtenay), Bishop of Exeter, Edward “Curtenay” of Boconnok, Esquire, John Trefry of Fowy, Esquire, with many others, whose names were unknown, arrayed in warlike manner (*modo guerrino arraiati*), namely, with swords, clubs, bows and arrows (*gladiis, baculis, arcubus et sagittis*), rebels and traitors to the king (Richard III), conspired together, and, collecting a great multitude of people, incited them to murder, slay, and utterly overthrow the king himself (*ad murderandum, occidendum, et totaliter disdruendum ipsum Regem*), and falsely and treacherously to set up another king in his place. The same witnesses prove that the said Peter

¹ De Banco, Mich. 2 Rich. III., m. 146, d. “Isabella who was the wife of Thomas Burlas, by John Chamberlyn her attorney, claims against Otho Moyle, late of the parish of “Seynt Columbe the Over, gentilman,” and Robert Poule, late of Tregony-burgh, &c.” The defendant’s attorney is Nicholas Opy.

² Now in the possession of C. D. Le Grice, Esq.

Edward, and John, at the same time and place, issued divers seditious and unlawful proclamations to the assembled populace ; thereby provoking a general disturbance. Also, that there were present there, brought together by the command of Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., and of Henry Duke of Buckingham,—Ralph Arundell of Penbugell, Esquire, Geoffry Beauchamp of Bynnerton, Remfry Densell of Densell, and John Rosogan of Meleder.

It will be remembered that the 18th of October, 1483, had been fixed upon as the day for a general rising against Richard in the West. On that day, Henry of Richmond had been publicly proclaimed king at Exeter. By the 2nd of November, however, the Duke of Buckingham had been betrayed and executed, and Richard III. had by a rapid movement of his forces appeared in Devonshire, possessed himself of Exeter, and put his brother-in-law, St. Leger, and other prisoners to death. Peter Courtenay, the Bishop, had gone, as is clear from the document above quoted (though the fact was not known before its discovery) into Cornwall, with his brother Edward, afterwards created Earl of Devonshire, to carry the revolt into the heart of that county, which, as they knew, was only too ready to rise. With the assistance of some of the principal families the Bishop had succeeded in bringing together a force at Bodmin, when the news must have reached him of Buckingham's death, and the king's advance. He accordingly crossed over to Brittany, accompanied (as we learn from the evidence previously quoted) by Edward Courtenay of Boconnok, and other Cornishmen, amongst whom was Thomas Burlace, who, no doubt, had previously borne his part in the affair at Bodmin.

The second rebellion in which Thomas was engaged was the most disastrous event in Cornish history. Urged by an infatuation, the precise object of which is difficult to understand,—although the severity of a land-tax, and the desire to depose the King, for whom they had previously fought, in favour of the Earl of Suffolk, may have had something to do with it—the Cornish people allowed themselves to be stirred into rebellion by Thomas Flammock, or Flamank,—a lawyer descended from an ancient family of that name settled at Bocarne near Bodmin—and Michael Joseph, a smith of the same place. Armed, as in the previous rising, with bows, arrows, and bills,—their arrows being reported to be of the length of a tailor's yard, "so strong and mighty a bow," says Lord Bacon, "were they said to draw,"¹—they marched, six thousand strong (according to Hals), through Devonshire, Somersetshire, and Wiltshire, on London. At Wells they were joined by Lord Audley, who took the command; but they were, finally, defeated at Blackheath, where the greater number were taken prisoners. With the exception of the ring-

¹ Bacon's Works, edit. 1826, vol. v, p. 135.

leaders, the captives were generally speaking—as far as their persons were concerned—treated with lenity. Some of those of the higher rank, however, such as Sir Henry Bodrigan, forfeited their great estates; others were allowed to compound with their captors; and some few again, like Thomas Burlace, found a friend at court,—as the latter did in the person of his former commander, Edward Courtenay, now the Earl of Devonshire,—to intercede successfully for their admission to bail.

The effect produced by this rebellion on the ownership of land, from the Land's End to the Tamar, was startling. Some of the most ancient and honoured families in the district had joined the rabble ranks. Estates changed hands by wholesale, and there can scarcely be a collection of old Cornish records in the county which does not bear traces of some forced conveyance or compromise effected at this period by a captor on the lands of his captive. A notable instance of this occurs in the case of the estate of Pendeen, or Pendyne, in the parish of St. Just in Penwith, (which afterwards became Borlase property), where Jane, the daughter of John Pendyne, conveyed her lands to her father's captor, one John Thomas, "Serjeant at Arms."¹ In addition to Thomas Burlace, the family in St. Wenn contributed a yet more notorious personage to this rebellion in the person of one of the ringleaders—Richard Burlas; but whether he was brother or cousin to Thomas we have not been able to ascertain. To him is assigned the doubtful honour of appearing fifth on a list of those who were tried and convicted of High Treason—Lord Audley's name being the first—and he, therefore, was probably among the number of those who were hanged. The document in which he is mentioned (Rot. Parl., vol. vi, 544), runs as follows:—

"Forasmuche as James Tuchet of Audeley, late of Stowey in the countie of Somerset, knight,—late Lord Audeley; John Audeley, late of London, Gentilman; John Trevyfall of Seynt Madern in the countie of Cornwaill, Gentilman; William Antron of Antron in the same countie, Gentilman: Raufe Retallak of Seynt Columbe in the same countie, Yoman; Richard Burlas of Seynt Wen, in the same countie, Yoman; Thomas Polgrene of Polgrene in the same countie, Yoman; John Rosewaren of Rosewaren in the same countie, Yoman: John Alyn of Stoke in Clymmyslond in the same countie, Yoman;" (then follow six names of Somerset and Devon men) "with divers other unnaturall subjects to theym adherents, and by them trayterously moved, sterred and ledde into a greate nombre and multitude assembled, compassyng the death and destruction as well of the Kyng our Sovereign Lord, as of all the noble blode of thys land, and the subversion of the same his realme, att a place called the Blak Heth in the parysh of Grenewyche, in the countie of Kent, the 22nd day of June, the 12th yere of his moost Noble Reigne, then and there intending the execucione of their moost traiterous and malicious purpose, in playne feld inbatelled theymselves, apparelled in

¹ Documents in the possession of W. C. Borlase, Esq., M.P.

armes, contrarie to the dutie of their alleageaunce, levyed and reared Warre and made Bataille ayenst our said Sovereaine Lord, wher by the favour and sufferance of Allmyghty God, with the Kinges Hoost Roiall, to his greate and sumptuous charges by his Grace thereto called, they were recounted, vanquished, dispersed, overcame, and dyvers put to deth &c."

It was therefore enacted (that is, in the Parliament of 19 Hen. VII.), by way of approval, as we may suppose, of the sentences which had been already carried out, that these said persons should be severally convicted of High Treason.

The name of Thomas Burlace's wife we do not know, but he died in or about 1497-8.¹ and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was about ten years old at the time of his father's death. He possessed, as appears from the numerous Rolls² in which his name is mentioned,³ the lands of Burlas Burges, Langedon, Sent Newlyn, Carneke Cosyn, and Boswoneth. The titles to the two latter estates were disputed in 1518⁴ by "William Henley, late of Fowy, marchant, and Johanna his wife, and Peter Benet, late of Kernyke Cosyn, husbandman." In 1535-6, he claimed the Polsagh property, as we have seen, and a year or two later petitioned the Lord Chancellor (Sir Thomas Audley)⁵ to allow his case to be heard. He died in or about 1545, in which year his widow Joan, by her attorney Lawrence Boscawen, claimed dower⁶ from John Borlas his son and heir. No sooner had John entered into possession of his father's estate than he prosecuted the Polsagh suits,⁷ and, apparently, with success; although--perhaps to meet the heavy legal expenses—we find that he sold his lands in Newlyn parish to Walter Borlas, Esq., for 100 marks.⁸ He married Emma, who was buried at Bodmin in 1603,⁹ and he died between the years 1576 and 1579.¹⁰ His son and heir was Humphrey Burlace, whose name constantly appears, with that of his father, as a party to the sale of property. In his time, that is to say, before the end of the sixteenth century, it appears that the very considerable estates which constituted the Borlase

¹ Chancery, Town Depositions, Anno 27 Henry VII, Bundle 2.

² Thomas Burlace is also mentioned :—

(a) Subsidy Roll, Cornwall, No. 1573, Anno 14-15 Hen. VIII. :—

Seynt Wenne p'she. Thomas Borlas in bonis, iiii li. Inde Subs. ii s.

(b) Subsidy Roll, Cornwall, No. 1577. Anno 34-35 Hen. VIII. :—

Pochia de Wenna. Thomas borlas in terris, viiii li. Subs.—v s. iiii d.

(c) De Banco, Mich., 34 Hen. VIII., memb. 48:—

James Byckhyll and Joan his wife, executrix of the will of Robert Horewyll, appear by their attorney, John Evelegh, against Thomas Burlace, late of Seynt Wen, yoman, on a plea of debt (£38 10s. 0d).

³ Early Chancery Proceedings (New Numbers), Bundle 63, memb. 89.

⁴ De Banco. Mich. Term. Anno 10 Henry VIII. memb. 661 dorso.

⁵ Early Chancery Proceedings (old numbers) 66, memb. 295.

⁶ De Banco, Mich. Term. 34 Hen. VIII, memb. 244.

⁷ De Banco, Mich. 36 Hen. VIII, memb. 387, dorso.

⁸ Feet of Fines. Mich. Term. 2 Edward VI.

⁹ Bodmin Register.

¹⁰ He is mentioned in Lay Subsidy Rolls, Cornwall, No. 1573, 37 Hen. VIII, as "Joh'es borlas in terris (in parochia de Wenna) vi li.—subs. xiiis.

property, in the parishes of "Jacobbe Stowe," "Luxulyone," "Trevalgo," "Forebury," "Mynster," "Lesnowthe," "Dewstowe," St. Columb Major, St. Wenn, and Newlyn East, were sold. Humphrey married twice, but appears to have left no son.¹ From the evidence contained in the Feet of Fines,² it seems that the mortgage-debts, which had forced on the sales, were entailed on him and his father rather by the circumstances of the estate than by difficulties of their own creation. The consequences of the rebellion, and possible attainder of Thomas Burlace in 1497, and the perpetual drain of the long Polsagh suit, were enough to have exhausted a more extensive estate. When Norden wrote his *Survey*, John Hender was "dwelling at Burlace." Since then, the property has passed to the Molesworths, from whom, under its present name of "Middle Borlase," it was re-purchased into the family in 1832, by John Borlase, a descendant in the elder line. In the conveyance to him from Sir William Molesworth it is described as "all that messuage, barton, farm and demesne lands of Borlase, otherwise Burlace, otherwise Burlace Burgess, situate in the parish of St. Wenn, heretofore the lands of inheritance of John Borlase, Esquire, afterwards of John Hender, Esquire, by purchase (together with the Manor of Borlase, otherwise Burlace Burgess), from the said John Borlase, in or about the year 1559, and which descended to the family of the said Sir William Molesworth by the marriage of the heiress of the said John Hender with his ancestor."³

(To be continued.)

¹ Unless a branch at Bodmin descends from him.

² John Borlase and his son Humphrey are mentioned in—

- (1) Feet of Fines, Cornwall, 4 Elizab.
- (2) De Banco, Hilary, 7 Elizab., Part I, memb. 209 *verso*.
- (3) " " " memb. 214.
- (4) " Easter, 7 Elizab., Part II, memb. 707.
- (5) Misc. Chancery Proceedings, Elizab., Jas. I and Chas I, 3rd series, 20th Part. Burlace v. Downing.
- (6) Feet of Fines, Cornwall, Mich., 10 and 11 Elizab.
- (7) " " Cornwall, Hilary, 16 Elizab.
- (8) " " Cornwall, Mich., 16 and 17 Elizab.
- (9) " " Cornwall, Easter, 17 Elizab.
- (10) " " Cornwall, Easter, 18 Elizab. (the last in which John Burlace's name appears).
- (11) " " Cornwall, Easter, 8 Elizab., (where Humphrey Burlace acquires land in Roseavanyon).
- (12) } " " Cornwall, Easter, 21 Elizab.
- (13) } " " " "
- (14) " " Cornwall, Mich., 21 and 22 Elizab.
- (15) " " Cornwall, Trin., 23 Elizab.
- (16) " " Cornwall, Trin., 24 Elizab.
- (17) " " Cornwall, Trin., 30 Elizab.

The estates to which these Fines refer, and which passed from the family during this period were:—Egglosnewlyn (St. Newlyn Churchtown), Fentonworan, Lappa, Lappa Mylle, Goon-Wynnawe, Royston; Tretharopp and Lesnoweth; Polsaugh, Trefrydowe, Grymscott and Knolle; West Kowese, Brode Close and Otterham; Langdon and Whystone; Burlace Burges, Carnyk Cosene, Smallmonee, Boswaneight, Rechugian, Polrnyelle, Tredawrene, Hendra, and Burneck; estates in the parishes of Newlyn, St. Wen, Lancells, Jacobbestowe, Luxulyone, Trevalgo, Forebury, Mynster, and Dewstow.

³ Deed in the possession of the present owner, Walter H. Borlase, Esq., of Penzance.



SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE EAST FRONT OF SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.

IN THE SWEATE OF THY
FACE SHALT THOU EATE
BREAD GENESIS 3 19

S^r W^m BORLASE, Sen^r
founded and Endow'd
This School in Memory
of His Son HENRY
BORLASE Esq^r Burgeſs
of this Burrough in the
Parliament AD 1624.

IF ANY WILL NOT WOR
KE NEITHER SHALL HE
EATE 2 THESSA 3 10

and heir to John Chauntemarell of Chauntermarell, Esq., and of *Ales* his wife, da. and heir of *William Stoke* of Stoke juxta Byndon, co. Dorset, Kt., which John and Jone had issue,—*WALTER*, son and heir.

WALTER CHEVERELL of Chauntemarell, son and heir to John, mar. *Christian*, da. to *Henry Russell* of Barwyke, in the said co., and by her had issue,—*JOHN*, son and heir.

JOHN CHEVERELL of the said co., mar. *Margery*, da. of *John Wykes* of Byndon in Devon, Esq., and by her had issue,—*ROGER*, his eldest son; *Nicholas*, second son; *Elizabeth*, mar. to *John Turberville* of Bere Regis, co. Dorset, Esq.; *Christian*, mar. to *Christopher Martyn* of Adeleshampton; ... mar. to *Robert Turgis* of Melcombe, co. Dorset; *Anne*, a nonne at Tarrant; ... mar. to ... *Crukerne* in co. Dorset, Esq.

ROGER CHEVERELL of Chauntemarell, Esq., mar. *Anne*, da. and coheir of *Thomas Raves* of Dycheford Medya, co. Worc., Esq., and of *Elizabeth* his wife, da. to *David Brayles* of Shropshire, Esq., and of *Agnes* his wife, da. and coheir of *Bryan Saintpere*, which Thomas Raves was son to John Raves, son and heir to William and *Ellen* his wife, da. and coheir of *John Dycheford*, son and heir of William Dycheford, son and heir of John, son and heir of Geoffrey Dycheford of Mydildychford in Worc., Kt., and of *Beatrice* his wife, da. of *John Brocton*; which Roger and Anne had issue,—*CHRISTOPHER*, son and heir; *Elizabeth*, mar. to ... *Bacon* in co. Wilts, Gent.; *Mary*, mar. to *William Percy* of Shaftisburys; *Christian*, a nonne at Shaftisbury; *Thomazyn*, mar. to *Walter Graye* of Kingston Marwood, co. Dorset, Gent.

CHRISTOPHER CHEVERELL of Chauntemarell, son and heir to Roger, mar. *Isabel*, da. and sole heir to *William Walton* of Barton Dareye, co. Som'set, Esq., and by her had issue,—*Christopher* and *Nicholas* that died both sans issue; *Hughe*, son and heir; *John*, second son; *Robert* third son; *John*, fourth son; *Jane*, mar. to *Nicholas Lutterell* of Dunster co. Som'set, Esq.; *Phillippe*, unmar.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF BORLASE.

(Continued from p. 141.)

We must now return to the main line, which we left with Walter and Edward, the sons of John Borlas, of Borlas-Taillefer; but only to leave it again to follow the fortunes of the younger of these brothers, Edward, and that of his descendants. Leaving his native county, probably at an early age, Edward Borlas came to London, where, after having served his apprenticeship to Thomas Maynard, who was probably an uncle by marriage on his mother's side, he was admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1514.¹ Six years later he was one of those merchants who supplied Henry VIII. with wine for the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and, in this manner, was assisting the English nobility in running into that heavy debt which, while it had the effect of ruining many of them, ended in replacing them by a merchant aristocracy, such as the family of which, as we shall

¹ Records of the Mercers' Company.

presently see, he himself was the founder. Amongst the expenses noticed in the Calendar of State Papers, 1519 to 1521, of the king and queen and their household at Calais and Guisnes, while the Emperor, the French King and Queen, Cardinal Wolsey and many noblemen were there, from Thursday the 31st of May to Monday the 16th of July, 1520, the following item occurs under the head of "Buttilleria": "To Ric. Prowe, Ric. Harton, Robt. Colyns, Edw. Burlacy, Wm. Courtman, and Ric. Gittons, for Gascon wine, from £4 to £4 13s. 4d. a tun; French wine at 72s. 7½d. and 100s. a tun." In 1524 his name occurs in a Bill in Chancery, in which he sets forth that he, an English merchant being in Spain, had with others advanced £51 15s. to Sir Thomas Boleyn and Dr. Sampson, on a bill of exchange; that John Cooke and William Monkaster were authorised to pay the money, but that, while the other creditors had been paid, he had not. In 1528 the Calendar of State Papers contains an account of wines bought at Bordeaux by Edward Burlace and others. The total amount purchased by eleven persons was:—563 tuns, 1 "terce," 1 "carte." The purchase money amounted to £3,812 11s. 2¾d.; average cost at Bordeaux "at the first penny," £4 1s. 7d. per tun; at London, £6 15s. 5d. In 1534 is the following entry, from which we gather that the staple of his merchandize was the produce of his native county, and that it was this which in all probability gave him his connexion with commerce and his introduction to the trading community.¹ John Perchard, Mayor of Southampton, writes to Cromwell:—

"Concerning your order to make search in the galleys for certain tin belonging to Edw. Burlas, that one John Walshe sold without commission, it is so; but I cannot learn that the tin is in the galleys. They have made great haste to lade, and if we should make them 'unstyve' their wools, it will be a great hindrance to them, and they will make great outcry and sue us before the Council. We have, therefore, foreborne the search and attached John Walshe."

In 1535 we find him claiming certain lands in Cornwall and Devon against Edward Kyndon, gent., in a document in which he is described as Edward Borlas, citizen and mercer of London.² Amongst other plaintiffs are his brother, Walter Borlas, and Robert Moyle. In 1537 he was one of the wardens of the Mercers' Company. In 1542 he proceeds against Thomas Condorow *alias* Thomas Jack William, late of Truro, merchant, on a plea of debt.³ Edward's will, dated 16th February, 1543, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 16th June, 1544. It shews that, following the example of his royal master, he had married several times. All his three successive wives were widows, with families, and as he himself had children by all of them, his house may have contained no fewer than six

¹ Calendar of Letters and Papers, For. and Dom., Hen. VIII., vol. 7, no. 473.

² De Banco, Hil. 27 Hen. 8, m. 309. ³ *Ib.*, Mich. 34 Hen. 8, m. 245, verso.

families at once. His country residence was called "Perwyncles" (Periwinkles), and, with garden and land adjoining, was situated in the parishes of "Myddleton and Syttyngborne," in Kent. His first wife was Parnell, daughter of Sir John Baldwyn, Knt., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who brought him so ample a fortune that Bysshe—in his Notes on Upton, previously quoted—speaks of his descendants who enjoyed it as "*splendida sanè familia, largis fundis locupletata.*" Her first husband was Thomas Ramsey. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir Michael Dormer, Knt. and Alderman of London. Her first husband was William Marstonne. His third wife was Joan, daughter of . . . Huddleston, who survived him, and whose first husband was James Bolney. By Parnell Baldwyn, Edward had one son, John Borlas. By Margaret Dormer he had two sons,—Edward and William; and by Joan Huddleston he appears to have had another son, William. In his will he leaves his mother, Margaret Tregyan, £10, and to the high altar of St. Martyn's in the "Vintre," 3s. 4d. for forgotten tithes.

Of his sons, Edward, the second son, was admitted into the Mercers' Company in 1555. He married Katherine, daughter of William Bury of Culham in Oxfordshire, and died in 1588, leaving two children. William Burlas, the third son, married Mary, daughter of . . . English of Flask, and died in 1582. To him must be assigned some curious notices contained in the Calendar of State Papers (Foreign) for the years 1564-66. On Nov. 15th, 1564, Henry Killigrew writes to Challoner—"He (*i.e.*, Mr. Burlace) is a gentleman of an ancient house, servant and friend to the Earl of Warwick, under whom he had charge at Newhaven." The second entry is dated London, Dec. 23, 1566, and is a letter to Cecil "in behalf of an Englishman named William Burlace, who has been for some time in the service of the King of Spain." The third is from Dr. Man to Cecil. "The Count de Feria desired him to write to the Earl of Arundel that if he procured or spake anything to the hurt of William Burlace, for that he has done his commandment, he will seek him in the furthest part of England to break his head. To Man he said that if the Earl attempted anything further for the punishment of Burlace, he would have him cut in pieces as he passed out of Italy." Finally, the Queen (Elizabeth) writes to Dr. Man—"Burlace had illused Arundel. His (Burlace's) kinswoman is (Jane) Duchess of Feria." The relationship of William Burlace to the Duchess of Feria is plain. The Duke—then Count de Feria—who had been sent to England at the end of Mary's reign by Philip of Spain, had married a daughter of Sir Michael Dormer, and a sister, therefore, of William's mother. What was the precise nature of the offence committed by Mr. Burlace against Lord Arundel it is impossible to say; but it is interesting to note who the several parties in this

correspondence were, and what part they were bearing in the affairs of the time. Sir Thomas Challoner had been sent by Elizabeth to undertake the invidious post of ambassador at the Court of Spain in 1561. After suffering much indignity on his arrival, his trunk being opened and his papers examined, he spent his time in composing a book on "The right ordering of the English Republic," which he dedicated to his friend Sir William Cecil. In 1564 he was, at his own request, recalled to London, and Dr. Man, afterwards made Dean of Gloucester, was appointed to succeed him as ambassador. The Duke and Duchess of Feria bore no unimportant part in the intrigues of the time. It was to the Duke that, on the day before Mary died, Elizabeth was said to have acknowledged her belief in the real presence in the Sacrament, which fact he signified in a letter to his master, King Philip. In 1570 it was he who took Steukley to Philip with a plan for reducing Ireland, and assisted in heaping honours upon the adventurer, in spite of the remonstrances of the Archbishop of Cashel. It was to him that Sir Francis Englefield sends a list of the English pensioners in Spain in 1574; and, finally, the Duchess's name was mixed up in the correspondence given by Strype (from whose "Annals" these facts are derived) with that of the Jesuit, Francis Dacre. From the midst of such intrigues it was fortunate for William Burlace that he escaped, as he apparently did, unscathed, to marry and die in England.

The following entry probably relates to his younger namesake and step-brother:—

"Flushing, June 15th, 1591. William Burlas to Lord Burghley.—His Lordship having sent a note to Mr. Burnham, the water-bailiff there to search for a Mulatto or Portugese coming from Bordeaux, has made enquiry, and finds he came there in a ship, of which Peter Lienson was master, went thence to Middleburg and returned, and has since gone to London in the boat Adrian Eckar, a Fleming, sometime of Ostend. The boat may yet be heard of about St. Katherine's, where he commonly takes in beer. The Prince of Parma, with a force of 3,000 horse and 10,000 foot, is going to seek our forces before Groningen."¹

We may identify the writer of this with the William Borlas of Chesham, Bucks, Gent., whose will was proved in 1603 by Margaret, his widow.

John Borlas, the eldest son of Edward, employed the fortune left him by his parents in the purchase of the manor of Little Marlow, and the estate of Bockmer, in the parish of Medmenham in Buckinghamshire. Lysons, in his "History of Buckinghamshire," says he bought them about the year 1560, and states with regard to Little Marlow, that the manor had belonged to "the Nunnery," a convent of Benedictine Nuns, said to have been founded by Geoffrey, Lord Spencer, before the reign of King John, in honour of the Virgin Mary. Brown Willis describes the chapel and hall of this Nunnery as still extant in his time. The hall, which was 60 feet long, was pulled down in 1740, and there are

¹ Cal. S. P., Dom. 1591-4, p. 57.

now no remains of the conventual buildings. The manor of Brock, or Medmenham, which was also purchased by John Borlase, had passed from Hugh de Bolebec, founder of an Abbey of Cistercian Monks, by female heirs, to the families of Vere, Warren, Fitzalan and Beauchamp. It was afterwards in the Pole family, and having been several times forfeited and restored, was given in 1553 to the Rices, of whom Borlase bought it.

The notices of this John Borlas are scanty. On the 8th of November, 1567,¹ Lady Elizabeth Hoby writes to Cecil that—"Mr. John Burlace has requested her to solicit that the Shrievalty of Buckinghamshire should be bestowed on Mr. Edmund Ashfield, or some other person more able to bear the charge thereof than himself." The request, however, was vain, for he was Sheriff for that year, and again in 1588. In 1586 he was M.P. for the County of Buckinghamshire. He married Anne, daughter and coheirress of Sir Robert Litton of Knepworth in Hertfordshire, who died in 1622, and was buried at Little Marlow. In her will,² after bequests of silver plate to her daughters, she leaves £5 "to Mr. Rolls, a minister or preacher living in my house." Her husband died in 1593, and was buried at "Merlow" or "Marlow Parva" on May 17th in that year. The following is the text of a document in the College of Arms which gives us not only an account of his family, but also a curious description of a funeral pageant of the time, accompanied by full heraldic accessories:—

"Johne Borlas of Little Marlowe in Com. Bucks, esquier, married Anne, 3 d. and one of theirs of S^r Robart Litton of Knepworth in Com. Hartford, knight, and by her hath ysue now levinge,—Willm borlas hys onlye sone and heir, and six doughters, viz., Anne 1^o. Elizabeth 2. Jane 3. dorothy 4. Joyce 5. Ellen, 6 doughter. Wyllm borlas aforesaid married marie d. to Nycholas Backhouse of London, Alderman, and hath, ysue Johne 1^o. Wyllm 2. Henrie 3 sone. Anne 1^o d. married to Eusabye Isham of Pichley in Com. Northamp., esq. Elizabeth 2 d. married to Samuel backhouse of Swallowfeld in Com. barks, esq. Jane 3 d. married to Anthony blackgrove of Sonnyng in Com. barks, gent. Dorothy 4 d. married to gorge Typpyng of Whitfeld in Com. Oxon, gent. Joyce 5 d. married to Richard Codrington of Pockelchurche in Com. Glouc., esquier. Ellen 6 d. not yet married.³ The aforementioned John Borlas departed thys lyfe at London the 6 daye of maye and was from thence conveyed to hys maner howse of danvers in marlowe aforesaid, and in the Parishe Church ther was worshipfullye buried the vi daye of May aforesaid, a^d.d. 1593; at which buriall Wyllm burlas hys sone and heir was Chefe morn. and soole executore, Eusebye Isham and Samuell backhouse, assistantz; hys pennon of Armes borne by Wyllm borlas, his brother, the helme and Crest borne by blew mantle, pursuyvante of Armes, hys Coote of Armes borne by Richard Lee, Richmond herauld, deputye for Clarendienlx Kinge of Armes, by whom the wholl

¹ *Ib.* 1547-80, Add., p. 301.

² Proved in P.C.C.

³ She married Turnor.

Servyce was fynished. In witnes whereof we have sett hear unto oure handes the daye and yeare above said."

(Signed)

WILLIM BORLAS.

SA. BACKHOUSE.

EUSEBYE ISHAM.

RI. CODRINGTON.

William Borlas, Borlace, or Burlacy—as his name is variously spelt—was admitted a member of Gray's Inn in 1594. In 1601 he was Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, and the following year was Member of Parliament for Aylesbury. In June 1603 he was knighted by James I. at Sir John Fortescue's, at Beddington in Surrey. In the following year his signature, written as it is in the above document, in a clear and scholarlike hand, as Commissioner of Subsidies, is attached to a subsidy order against Sir William Bowyer of Denham and Stoke. His wafer seal, which is attached to this paper,¹ shows that he bore as his crest, *a wolf passant pierced with an arrow*—an entirely different crest to that borne by his great-uncle Walter Borlas of Tre luddra.



The Calendars of State Papers, and the Verney Papers contain several notices of Sir William Burlace, from which it appears that he not only entered fully into the cultivated society of his day, but that he bore no small part in public affairs. On July 20, 1607,² Dudley Carleton writes from Eton to John Chamberlain. "The Journey is undecided." "The court will be at Eton on Wednesday." "Thanks for Sir Michael Dormer's book." "Will meet you at Sir William Burlacy's;" and on June 24,³ the year following, that he "looks daily for good news from the court;" that he had gone "to Ascott to dinner;" that he had "found the knight and lady had gone to Hampton;" and that "Sir William Burlacy is ill." In 1610 we find a Bill of Attorney General Hobart in the court of Exchequer against Sir John Dormer, Sir Geo. Typping, Lady Tyrrel, Sir William Clarke, Sir William Burlacy and others, for refusing to compound with the Commissioners for defective titles, and thereby wrongfully withholding from the Crown Addingrave and other lands belonging to Barnwood Forest in Buckinghamshire.⁴ Other forest lands were similarly the subject of contention. In or about 1611⁵ to 1618, we find the name of Sir William Burlacy, together with those of of Sir Henry Neville, Sir Francis Moore, Sir Henry Savile, Sir Robert Killigrew, and Humphrey Newbry, as defendants against the Attorney General, respecting the right to Ashridge and other lands in Windsor Forest, which lands as they allege were held by them, though claimed for the Crown,⁶ as belonging to the Royal forest. The matter⁷ was finally settled by a grant, dated at

¹ In the possession of W. C. Borlase, M.P.

² Cal. S. P. (Domestic), 1607, p. 365.

³ *Ib.*, 1608, p. 441.

⁴ *Ib.*, 1610, p. 571.

⁵ Cal. S. P. (Domestic), 1616 (?) p. 421.

⁶ *Ib.*, 1618, p. 587.

⁷ *Ib.*, 1619, p. 99.

Westminster, Nov. 30, 1619, of these lands, assarts, and purpresures in Windsor forest to these same defendants, upon their compounding with the "Commissioners for Assart lands," to which is added a pardon for past trespass therein. In the memoranda of Debates¹ in the House of Commons for March 21, 1610, a proposal of Sir William Burlacy is noticed "that purveyors should be first in the list of grievances." It was resolved "to proceed in them by Bill rather than Petition." The portion of the Verney papers² during 1625 and the following year, which relate to the pressing of men for the Cadiz expedition, and the levying of money upon Privy Seals, contains an interesting reference to Sir William Burlacy. The Parliament had granted the King two subsidies, "as the first-fruits of their love." In Buckinghamshire the proportion amounted to £3,052. Scarcely had the deputy-lieutenants, of whom Sir William was one, assessed this amount upon the county, when they were called upon to return the names of persons to whom Privy Seals might be addressed for a loan of half that amount. To make the demand more palatable it was accompanied, or immediately followed, by a direction to disarm the Roman Catholics, against whom popular jealousy was at that time more than ordinarily excited, in consequence of the new favor with which they were received at Court. The letter of the Duke of Buckingham, as Lord-lieutenant, in which he conveys these instructions to his deputies is preserved by Verney. It is addressed to "my lovinge friends Sir Thomas Temple, Sir Francis Goodwin, Sir Thomas Tiringham, Sir William Burlacy, Sir Thomas Denton, Sir Edward Tyrrell and Mr Clarke." The communication which follows it, from Sir Thomas Tiringham to Sir Thomas Denton, seems to prove that this search for arms was no mere form, although some of the Deputy-lieutenants express a fear of being "lawffied att" for their pains. The assessment for the loan, however, was not easily agreed upon. Many letters passed between the Deputy-lieutenants on the subject, and it is obvious that there was much complaining, and a general feeling of hardship and dissatisfaction. Three months elapsed before the list was settled. John Hampden was amongst the prominent complainers. It is not, therefore, otherwise than significant of the boldness and integrity of Sir William "Borlace" (as he is here called) that we find him writing to Sir Thomas Denton, on Jan. 9, 1625-6, as follows:—

"I do think Mr. John Hampden to be £13 6s. 8d., and his mother £10 is a harder rate than I finde upon any other."

The list of the Privy Seals finally issued proves that the protest of Sir William, in this (as it proved to be) most crucial

¹ *Id.*, 1610, p. 593.

² Camden Soc., 1853, pp. 118-120.

case, was not attended to by his brother Deputy-lieutenants. It is satisfactory, however, to know that he made it.

Sir William Burlase was a friend and contemporary of Ben Jonson. Indeed, he appears to have painted a picture of the poet, which he apparently sent him as a present, accompanied by "an attempt at verse," as Gifford calls it,¹ beginning with the lines, which will be quite sufficient to quote,—

"To paint thy worth, if rightly I did know it,
And were but painter half like thee, a poet ;
Ben, I would shew it."

The present called forth a reply which is to be found in Gifford's edition of Jonson, entitled, "The answer of the Poet to the Painter," and, with some slight variations, in a pamphlet in the King's Collection in the British Museum, called "*Parnassus Biceps* or Severall Choice Pieces of Poetry, composed by the best Wits that were in both the Universities before their Dissolution, London, 1656." It is as follows :—

Ben Jonson

TO BURLACE.

"Why, though I be of a prodigious waist,
I am not so voluminous and vast
But there are lines wherewith I may be embrac'd.
'Tis true, as my womb swells, so my back stoops,
And the whole lump grows round, deform'd and droops ;
But yet the tun of *Heidleb* has hoops.
You are not tyed by any Painter's law,
To square my circle, I confesse, but draw
My *superficies*, that was all you saw :
Which if in compasse of no art it came
To be described, but by a Monogram,
With one great blot you have drawn me as I am.
But whilst you curious were to have it be
An Archetype for all the world to see,
You have made it a brave peece, but not like me.
Oh, had I now the manner, mastery, might,
Your power of handling shadow, aire and sprite,
How could I draw, behold, and take delight ;
But you are he can paint, I can but write,
A Poet hath no more than black and white,
Nor has he flattering colours or false light.
Yet when of friendship I would draw the face,
A letter'd mind, and a large heart would place
To all posterity, I would write *Burlace*."

Sir William married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Backhouse, Alderman of London. She is said to have died of the plague, and was buried at Little Marlow, July 18, 1625. He died Sept. 4, 1629, and was buried at Little Marlow on the 10th of that month. His will (made Aug. 29, 1628) in which he is described as "Sir William Burlase of Medmenham, Knt.," was proved Nov. 20, 1629. After sundry bequests to relatives and servants, he

¹ Jonson's Works (Edit. Gifford). London, 1816. Vol. viii, p. 442.

makes the following mention, in a codicil, of a school which he had founded at Great Marlow in memory of his son Henry, who had died five years previously.

"Whereas I have given a house and lands in Great Marlowe to be used for charitable purposes, as a memorial of my late son Henry Burlase, the same shall be employed for the benefit of the poor in the parishes of Great Marlow, Little Marlow, and Medmenham solely. The same house and lands shall be in the management of 12 Feoffees and my son Governor of the same, and after his death the Lord of the Manor of Davers [Danvers] in the parish of Little Marlowe, governor in his place. The profits of the aforesaid house and lands to be employed as follows:—£12 yearly for a schoolmaster to teach 24 poor children, and, every Easter, 12 of the same to receive 40s. for binding their apprentices. My further will is that the house where Hugh Tanner now lives, adjoining the school-house, be used as a work-house and house of correction, and the said Hugh Tanner and his successors shall be chosen into that place accordingly as the schoolmaster is appointed to be chosen, and that he and they shall have £6 or £8 yearly for wages and he shall teach 20 poore women-children, of the burrow of Great Marlow only, to make bone lace, to spin, and to knitt. And the said Hugh Tanner shall cause to be whipped all such offenders as the petty constables, officers, or Tything-men shall bring to him."¹

It is a matter of deep interest to the writer of these pages to add that on Friday, Feb. 10, 1882, he took part by the invitation of the Governors, in the resuscitation of this very school, under the new scheme adopted by the Commissioners, and, in distributing the prizes to the boys, was able to give them a short account of their founder and his family,²—he (the writer) being the first William Borlase who had sat in the House of Commons since the days of Sir William and his son.

Sir William Borlase had three sons:—

- (1) William Burlace, Borlace or Burlacye,—of whom presently.
- (2) Henry Borlace, Barrister at Law, of the Middle Temple; M.P. for Aylesbury in 1621, and for Marlow in 1624. It was to his memory, as the inscription on the school-house at Marlow still records, that his father founded the Free School. His will, dated Sept. 22, 1624, was proved by Sir William Borlase, his brother and executor, Feb. 3, 1625. It is as follows:³—

"My chambers and study, with their appurtenances in the Temple, I give to my cozen, Mr. Timothie Wagstaffe of the Middle Temple, or if he be not living, to Mr Thomas Knevett of the Middle Temple, Esq^{re}, on condition that they shall sell the same and pay the money raised thereby to my Executor, Residue to my loving brother Sir William Borlace, the younger, and he Executor."

¹ Lysons (*Mag. Brit. Bucks*, p. 601) mentions that the Free School founded by Sir William Borlase in 1624 was for twenty-four boys, three of them were to be of Medmenham, three of Little Marlow, and three of Great Marlow. "The Master," he says, "has a salary of £16 per annum, a house, garden, and a large pasture field. An apprentice fee of 40s. is given to each boy when he leaves the school. Sir William founded also a House of Correction, and a school for twenty-four girls, who were to be taught to spin, sew, and make lace: but this institution has not been kept up."

² In the account of this opening ceremony, which will be found in the *South Bucks Free Press* for Feb. 17, 1882, there are one or two slight errors in the family history which are here corrected.

³ P.C.C. 20, Clarke.

(3) John Borlase, M.P. for Marlow in 1640-1, who died without issue.

Of the second Sir William Borlase, who, on the death of his father, succeeded to the estates and a fortune, which was clearly very considerable, the first notice appears in 1608 (Jan. 20), when a licence is granted to "William Lytton of Knebworth, co. Herts; William Burlace of Bockmore, co. Bucks; and John Dunster, Fellow of Magdelen Coll. Oxford; to travel for three years.¹" On the fifth of September, 1617, he was knighted at Warwick by James I. In 1627-8 he was M.P. for Wycombe, during which time he caused to be compiled a volume of Parliamentary notes, which is thus described among the MSS. in the Ashburnham collection.²

"'Some Notes taken in ye Cessions of Parliament held at Westminster, beeginninge the 17th of March 1627, and endinge the 26th of June, 1628,'—a folio, vellum, in contemporary, though various handwriting. Under the title is the autograph of 'William Borlase, Knight.'"

He sat, therefore,—side by side, perhaps, with another Buckinghamshire landowner, whose name is dear to every lover of his country's liberty, John Hampden,—in that most memorable Parliament which gained for England that which has not been inappropriately called her second Charter,—the famous Petition of Rights.

There is one mention of Sir William in the Calendar of State Papers (Domestic 1629, p. 63) which refers to some subject unknown.

"Sept. 24. DOVER. SIR WILLIAM BORLASE to SECRETARY DORCHESTER. His exceeding contentment that there is anything in his power which may be of use to Dorchester. Will more esteem 'these creatures,' than he had thought to have done. Dorchester's servants will needs undertake the transport of 'this ware.'"

On the death of his father he set himself to "*establish*" the school which the former had endowed. Unhappily his early death cut short what promised to be a useful if not a brilliant career. This event, which occurred at Bockmore on the 10th of December, 1630, was evidently a subject of universal regret both far and near. The memory of his piety and learning, as well as a graphic sketch of his character, has been preserved in a long elegy, a copy of which, made by Dr. Borlase the historian of Cornwall, is in the possession of the writer. The original MS. tract was presented to Dr. Borlase by his friend Mr. Astle of the British Museum in 1763, and the next year it was in the possession of his brother Dr. Walter Borlase of Castle Horneck, but only the title-page, on the back of which is depicted a banner with the arms of Borlase impaling Popham, is now extant.

¹ Cal. S.P. (Domestic) 1608, p. 396, *Docquet*.

² Hist. MSS. Commission, App. to 8th Report, Part III, p. 216.

In the copy he made of the poem Dr. Borlase omitted much that was in the original. In his criticism of it he truly says "the author was certainly a very good man, a true christian, and no contemptible poet for an age when as yet neither a Waller or a Dryden had improved and softened the harshness of the English numbers. His invocations are very poetical." Indeed, these invocations, involving a thorough acquaintance with the classical models on which they are based, are not a little striking, coming as they do from an anonymous¹ writer resident in the same neighbourhood in which the author of "Lycidas" was living and writing so soon after. The title is as follows:—

The Muses Oblation

OR

VERTUE'S MONUMENT

Consecrated in perpetuall remembrance
and Preservation of the noble name
and fame of the late illustrious
and worthyly honoured Knight
SIR WILLIAM BURLACE
who departed this mortal life
at Bockmore the 15 December,
1630."²

The Elegy is preceded by the following Epitaph and Dedication:—

"Behold and weep, here's his sepulchral Urne,
That saw but once *Sol* through the Zodiac turne
Since his Sire's death, and had a slender tast
Of those great fortunes fal'n to him at last,
Yet he improved this pinch of time, and made
A final topp to his father's ground-work laid,
A schoole, which by the yeerly maintenance,
Six youths to Trade or Learning doth advance :
And as his life was truly hospitable,
So was his dying point as charitable,
True witnesses are sundry Parish poor,
And all his vertues as his bounties shewre."

"To the noble and religious Lady,
the Lady Burlacie."³

Madame,

Not to draw any more teares from the compassionate river

¹ Possibly the author was the incumbent of Great or Little Marlow, or Mednesham or his own private chaplain, as special reference is made to the "encouragement" Sir William gave to the "offerings of the quill" of "religious pastors."

² It should be the 10th. He was buried on the 14th.

³ In this Elegy the name is spelt (p. 2) 'Burlacie;' (p. 4) 'Burlace;' (p. 6) 'Bourlacie;' (p. 8) 'Borlacy;' (p. 13, in gilt letters) 'Burlacy;' (p. 15, ditto); (p. 38, also in gilt letters) 'Burlasey.' Dr. Borlase says that the right way of writing the name is 'Borlās,' or, without the circumplex, 'Borlase.'

of your eyes do I presume to present these funerall lines to your gracious viewe, but, as your Ladishipp did entirely love and cherish this noble Knight your deceased husband, So I am confident that now after his death your Ladishipp will affect this worke of the Muses, in which your Ladishipp will finde him, if not live, yet to draw a little breath such as will give you comfort, his mortality being past, and his immortal life risen subject neither to Physick nor fortune.

Vouchsafe therefore, noble Lady, to accept of it, seeing that it aimes at conservation of the vertuous fame and name of him who did dearely love your Ladishipp."

The Elegy.

[Extracts.]

"Sith that the hand of Death hath laid thee there
Where men are all of them alike, and where
All men in time must lye, even in the earth
Where are no severall rooms for State or Birth ;
We see the conquerors with the captives spread
And lodg'd in earth as in the common bed.
The all-commanding general hath no span
Of earth allow'd, more than the common man ;
Folly with wisdom hath an equal share,
The fair and foul alike intomb'd are :
The servant with his master, and the maid
With her proud mistress, both their heads are laid
Upon an equal pillow : subjects keep
Like courts with Kings ; ay, and as softly sleep,
Resting their heads upon a turf of grass,
As they on marble or on figur'd brass.
* * * * *

Of what thy Vertue, and thy worth hath done
Renown'd Borlase, each thing else being gone,
Yet must the Muses thou wert wont to grace
Not leave thee in the grave, that darksome place
Where all attendance and observance ends,
Where what was ill no countenance defends,
And what was good the unthankful world forgets,
Where all the Sunshine of our favour sets.
Here shalt thou have the service of their pen,
They cannot be suppos'd to flatter, when
They speak behind thy back. * * * *

Melpomene, and all yon sacred brood
Of Mnemosyne, with living laurel crown'd,¹
You that have filled your veins with heavenly food,
And scorn to prey upon the barren ground,
Help me these funeral Anthems to resound
For him that's dead, and other saints hath found
For his sweet soul, who living loved you dear,
Leaving you to lament his fortunes here.
Strew cypress and pale violets on his tomb
Immortal, that whoever there doth come
May view the ensigns of his endless praise,
And on his fair crest fix a crown of bays ;
And let some spirit guard the holy cell

¹ Compare "Lycidas" and "Theseritus," from the latter of which both this and Lycidas are derived.

Wherein the bones of brave Burlacy dwell ;
 Awake, Euterpe, my dull drooping song,
 Help thou my fainting fury to prolong
 With thy melodious thundering blasts awhile,
 And pour new fire into my frozen style !
 Oh ! for new words that bear a sadder sound
 Than ever was in any language found !
 You gentle Spirits that turn not your eyes
 From common griefs, nor are of metal made
 Such as the Iron ages do comprize,
 Come see wherein our human glory lies ;
 See living virtues in death daily fade ;
 For as a flower or summer's passing shade
 Withereth and wasteth in the unthankful grave
 Such is the hope and fortune worldlings have.

* * * * *

His own death, following as it did so closely on that of his father, is referred to as follows :—

Why didst thou trace thy father's steps so nigh,
 Burlacy, oh ! thy cheeks being hardly dry
 And the sad Rosmarine scarce out of th' hand ?
 Thou might'st have liv'd and flourish'd through this land,
 As doth some branch sprung from a noble stem.

* * * * *

Two touching allusions to his young widow and orphaned family are contained in the lines :—

And thou, thrice noble Lady, late the wife
 Of noble Burlacy, depriv'd of life,
 Who can prescribe a bound unto your moan
 Now that your second dearest self is gone ?

And again :—

Oh ! thou great Spirit, whose all quickening breath
 At thy high pleasure both in life and death
 Dost guide this mass and every change dispose,
 Thou that the heart's yet unthought purpose knows ;
 Dew with thy grace, and preserve as thine eye
 The tender Seed of noble Burlacy.

That he was himself not only a patron of learning, but a scholar, we may gather from the following :—

Methinks I see all Arts do hang their head,
 Ever since the mournful minute he was dead ;
 For he himself was Learning's lump, and lent
 Favour to such as were to study bent ;
 He to Religious Pastors was a shield,
 And unto them encouragement did yield ;
 He would accept the offering of their quill,
 Not with a loathness, as against his will,
 But with much affability, and then
 He was exceeding liberal to those men
 In whom he found true scholarship and wit
 Which fairly testify'd he valued it.

His character seems to be graphically sketched in the following passage :—

Mild, affable, and easy of access
 He was, but with a due reservedness,
 So that the passage to his favour lay

Not common, but it gave a gentle way
 To such as fitly might or ought to pass ;
 And such his custom and his manner was.
 Commodities he took not upon day,
 Nor made men lose their gains by his delay ;
 He entertained them not with promises,
 Nor loved he poor men's sad attendances ;
 He was a man that lov'd no great commerce
 With business, fearing that it might disperse
 Him into other men's uncertainties.

* * * * *

His tongue and heart did ne'er turn back, but went
 One way, and kept one course with what he meant.
 The Friendships that he vow'd most constant were,
 He us'd no mask at all, but always ware
 His honest inclination open fac'd,
 With judgment were his deep affections plac'd.
 He did esteem the bond of friendship so,
 That where he once laid hold, he ne'er let go,
 He was descended from illustrious blood,
 And by his nature he was truly good.
 His birth was noble, yet to measure still
 His greatness by his goodness was his will :
 In nothing proud or high was his desire,
 Only that he to goodness did aspire.
 His enemies (if enemies he had)
 Cannot for aught reprove him that was bad.
 'His foes,' said I ? Oh no, he all did move
 Though ne'er so envious to bear him love.
 There's never any had a heart less swerving
 Nor was at more command, most truly serving
 Under the Regiment of his own care,
 And colours of that honesty he bare."

The rhymer then proceeds to dwell on his natural modesty and abstemiousness, and to express his opinion that whether in living or dying he was a pattern to christian men. There may be much of the fulsomeness of praise, so common to the age in which these lines were written, in all this ; but making full allowance for it, it cannot be doubted that the character depicted is that of a good man, whose promising career was cut short at a very early age. If in the case of his father and himself there is a lack of materials from which to form their history, we may be contented to feel sure with Macaulay that that very fact is "a proof that hatred itself could find no blemish on their memory." The times in which they lived were, perhaps, the most momentous in English history. The early death of the second Sir William saved him from being an eye witness of the Revolution which was looming in the not far distant future, and which one sitting in the same Parliament as Hampden and Eliot could scarcely fail to forecast. Never could the weight of responsibility, grave as it ever must be,—grave as it is at the present day,—have pressed so severely on the representatives of their fellow country-men as it did just then. What part they took we do not know. *Te digna sequere*, "Follow things worthy of you," was their family

motto. We seem almost to know them well enough, from the little we do know, to feel sure that with them that was no mere idle phrase. One thing, it appears, they clearly recognised, and that was that if the growing desire for learning was to find safe and proper channels, practical technical education must be advanced. It was to trade, successfully carried on in the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth, that their own fortunes were mainly due. The yeoman proprietor in those days when he wanted to make his son a gentleman, sent him into trade, for commerce was then, as in every healthy state of society it should be, honourable and honoured. So it had been with this Sir William's great-grandfather. The younger son of a Cornish landowner—one of a family who prided themselves on having lived for many centuries in the place that bore their name—he came to London to make a fortune, and he made it,—which is more than those did whom he left behind in Cornwall. It was not long before this that Edward Borlas, as we have seen, was supplying Henry VIII with wine for the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and was in a position to arrange a marriage for himself with the daughter and heiress of Baldwyn, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, which gave his son the means to purchase these Marlow estates. In founding, therefore, and establishing the school at Marlow, the two Sir Williams were extending to others those benefits, which their own family had reaped.¹

¹ See *South Bucks Free Press*, Feb. 17, 1882.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF BORLASE.

(Continued from p. 239).

Among minor events in Sir William's life, we find that he formed a park at Little Marlow. His will, dated Oct. 16, 1629, was proved by his widow and executrix 9 Feb., 1630.

After recording his wish "to be buried in Little Marlow

Church at the feet of my father," he recites two indentures—made between himself and his father of the one part and his 'cozen,' Sir John Backhouse, knt., Thomas Lane of Hughenden, Esq., and Richard Ashby of Stratton Awdley, gent., of the other part, dated respectively, Jan. 21 and 22, 1627, whereby all their lands were settled to the uses of his three sons, and for raising money for portions for his daughters—and ratifies the same.

"My household stuff and plate in this house of Little Marlowe, and that of Bockmore, shall remain to the use of my son and heir John Borlase, only my wife enjoying the use of that at Little Marlow for her life. To my son, Henry Burlase, my lease of the manor of Westgate Court, co. Kent, with its appurtenances, and the mills adjoining, which I hold of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,—at his age of 22."

"Whereas by the grant of Hugh Middleton of London, goldsmith, I have two six and thirtieth parts of the new stream of water to be brought from Chadwell and Hanwell to London, I give the same to my aforesaid son Henry."

"To my daughters Anne and Mary Burlase £20 each for a jewell."

"To my son and heir John Burlase £100 for a wedding ring, if I die before his marriage."

He also mentions his cousins Sir John Borlase and his son John, his cousin William Tippinge, Mr. Thomas Still, Mr. John Popham his brother-in-law (to whom he leaves a horse and £10 for a saddle), and whom he wills to be joined in the trust for his children, together with Sir John Backhouse and Mr. Thomas Lane—"beseeching him to continue his faithful love to his sister, my wife." "To his true old friend Mrs. Jane Woodward, £20; and to her grandson, my godson, William Ashby, £10." "My servant, Nurse Tanner, £6." "Mr. Gregory, minister of Little Marlow, £10. Mr. Burnard of Medmenham, £5." His wife is to enjoy the house at Little Marlow for her life, and, "during her widowhood, shall have the use of the Park that I have lately made in Little Marlow." Witnesses—Hierome Gregory, Thos. Brooke. There is a codicil, dated Dec. 13 (6 Chas. I), leaving "the lease of the parsonage at Lutgarshall" to his eldest son, and certain legacies to servants. Witnesses—Theodore Deodas, doctor of physick, Joel Barnard, Hierome Gregory, William Turner, Elizeus Hathaway, Richard Chervill.

Sir William's wife was Amy, daughter of Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecot, Wilts, knt., by Amy, only child of John Dudley, of Stoke Newington, co. Middlesex. Lady Borlase married secondly, Gabriel Hipplesley, by whom she had issue a son Francis Hipplesley, who married Frances Reynell, and by her had two daughters—Catherine and Anne Hipplesley. On 14 December, 1666, a Commission was granted to Frances Hipplesley, their mother and guardian, to administer to the goods of William Borlase, late of Great Marlow, Bucks,—her daughters being minors—the principal legatees named in Gabriel Hipplesley's will, and administratrixes to the goods of William Borlase. On 28 April, 1668, a similar Commission was granted to the same Frances Hipplesley, under similar circumstances, to administer for

her two daughters in the case of the will of Henry Borlase, late of Great Marlow; they being minors and principal creditors. Lady Borlase was buried at Little Marlow, Aug. 1, 1661. By her Sir William had issue:—

- (1) John Borlase, of whom presently.
- (2) William Borlase—mentioned in his father's will, who matriculated at Ch. Ch. Oxford, 22 June, 1632, then aged 17. He was M.P. for Marlow 12 and 13 Chas. II. (1660-2), and was buried at Little Marlow, Nov. 1, 1665. He is apparently the same person to whose goods Frances Hipplesey administered on behalf of his daughters in 1666 (see above). He married Joane, daughter of Sir John Banks,¹ sister of Alice, his brother John's wife, whose will, made June 11, 1687, was proved July 26, 1688. In it she speaks of herself as "of Great Marlow"; leaves a ring to her son-in-law, Sir Richard Ashley, and to her daughter Henrietta, his wife £100, for a 'Jewell,' and "an equal share with my other daughters in the jewels that I leave to them. To each of my brothers and sisters a ring, and likewise to Sir Robt. Jenkinson and his lady, and to Mrs. Mary Gilly. The poore of Great Marlow where I dwell, £10. The minister of Great Marlow 20s." Other bequests follow, to servants, &c. "The residue to my daughters Mary Borlase, Anne Wingfield, and Allicia Wallope." (P.P.C. 82, Exton.)

William Borlase had issue:—

- (1) John Borlase² of Great Marlow; matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 14 July, 1665, then aged 15. He died a bachelor, in 1681, when his mother renouncing her right to administer to his estate, a Commission was granted (Nov. 29) to his three sisters to do so. At Hertford College, Oxford, there is a silver two-handied cup given by him, with this inscription:—"Ex dono Joh. Borlase filij natu maximi Gul. Borlase de Marlow in comitatu Bucks, Armig., hujus Aulæ superioris ordinis Commensalis."³
- (2) Henrietta Borlase⁴; married to Sir Richard Ashley, Bart., whose monument, in Patshull Church, Staffordshire, bears the following inscription:—"D.O.M. Here lieth Sir Richard Ashley, Knt., and Bart.; married Elizabeth, daughter of John Philipps of Picton Castle in y^e County of Pembroke, Esq^{re}; had Issue one Son and three daughters,—Richard, Elizabeth, Mary, and Kathe-

¹ See MS. Pedigree by Mr. Cokayne.

² This John appears to be the same who is called—"Sir John Borlase of Great Marlow," in Baldwin Borlase's will, 1679.

³ The coat of arms it bears is incorrect, the two hands on the bend being clasped.

⁴ Mentioned in her mother's will.

rine; his second wife, Henrietta, Daughter and Co-heir of William Borlase, of Great Marlow in y^e County of Bucks, Esq.; had Issue one son and two Daughters,—John, Henrietta, and Ellinora. He deceased y^e 24th of feb. Anno Domⁿⁱ 1687, aged 63. R.I.P.”

(3) Mary Borlase¹; unmarried in 1688.

(4) Anne Borlase; married Thomas Wingfield, Esq.

(5) Alicia Borlase²; married at Kensington, Aug. 14, 1683, by Dr. Woodroffe, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, to John Wallop, Esq., father of John Borlase Wallop, created Viscount Lymington and Earl of Portsmouth. He was educated at Winchester, where he was entered as a gentleman-commoner, and where his portrait,—as a boy, in a red coat, in the good old days when a pack of harriers was provided for the favoured few who, no doubt, paid heavily for their privileges, and who were derived exclusively from the highest ranks of society—is still to be seen, with those of other pupils, in the dining-room of the second master's house.

(3) Henry Borlase, third son of Sir William, to whom his father left the lease of Westgate Court, Kent. He died about 1688, when a Commission (as in the case of his brother William) was granted to Frances Hipplesley, on behalf of her daughters, minors, legatees of Gabriel Hipplesley, and “principal creditors of Henry Borlase, to administer to his goods.”

(4) Anne, eldest daughter of Sir William Borlase, married Feb. 9, 1634, to Richard Grenville, Esq., whose grandsons were, respectively, Richard Grenville, Earl Temple (in right of his mother, Hester Temple), and George Grenville, M.P. for Buckinghamshire, created the first Marquis of Buckingham, father of the first Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

From a passage in Lysons it seems that Anne Borlase's marriage portion was the manor of Widmer in the parish of Great Marlow. After having belonged to the Knights Templar, and, after the dissolution of their order, to the Knights Hospitaller, it was, subsequently to the Reformation, in the possession of the Widmers, an ancient family who seem to have taken their name from the place. “About the year 1634 it was purchased by the Borlases, from whom it passed by marriage to the Grenvilles. The late Earl Temple sold it, about the year 1747, to Mr. Moore, of whom it was purchased in 1766 by William Clayton Esq., father of Sir William Clayton, Bart. Part of the manor-house, now a farm, is very ancient. The chapel has been converted into a brew-house.”³

¹ Mentioned in Baldwin Borlase's will in 1679, for £100.

² Mentioned as Mrs. Elisha Borlase in Baldwin Borlase's will in 1679, for £100.

³ Lysons, *Mag. Brit. Bucks*, p. 599.

(5) Mary Borlase, second daughter of Sir William, died unmarried, and was buried at Little Marlow, Feb. 27, 1637.

Sir John Borlase, the first Baronet, was the eldest son of Sir William Borlase, knt. With regard to him, it will be as well to mention that in every pedigree of this family he has, hitherto, been confounded with his cousin and contemporary, Sir John Borlase, Lord Justice of Ireland, to the great confusion of dates and occurrences. He was created a Baronet May 4, 1642, and was a staunch adherent of the Royal cause. In the number of those members of the Commons' House who, in January, 1643, being assembled at Oxford, would have subscribed the letter to the Earl of Essex, dated 27 January, had they been present in time, but who "being disabled by several accidents" from appearing sooner, "afterwards attended the service, and concurred" with the king, appears the name of Sir John Burlasey. From Mr. Bankes's *History of Corfe Castle*, the following extract is taken :—

The Parliament summoned by Charles I. at Oxford "assembled in the Great Hall of Christ Church, met in obedience to the Royal proclamation on the 22nd of January, 1644 (? 43). One hundred and eighteen members of the House of Commons gave their attendance ; amongst these was Sir John Borlase ; and the chief Justice (*i.e.* Sir John Bankes) had the satisfaction of meeting there both of his eldest daughters with their husbands. For this act of obedience to the king's summons, Sir John Borlase was declared by the London House of Commons to have forfeited the seat for Corfe Castle."

In the "Genealogical History of the Croke Family" (p. 540) is the following letter dated "Oxon, June 6th, 1655," from H. Smith and Captain Unton Croke to the Protector :—

"May it please your Highness —

In pursuance of your instructions we have seized the persons of Lord Lovelace, Sir John Burlacie, Sir Thomas Pope, John Osbaldiston, Esq., who were included in the list sent us from your Highness. Sir William Waller, and Col. Sands are, as we hear, at London, and so out of our reach. We have also secured the Lord of Falkland, George Nappier, Thomas Whorword, Esq., who are dangerous disaffected persons. We intend to-morrow morning to send them to Worcester, that being the nearest place where there is convenience for confinement."

The following note is from the *Biographia Britannica* :—

"He" [that is, Sir John Bankes] "left behind him a numerous posterity, both males and females, of whom his eldest son, Sir Ralph Bankes, paid £1974 as a forfeiture to the state ; his eldest daughter's husband, Sir John Borlase, £3500 ;¹ Lady Bankes, then a widow, for herself and seven children was decreed to pay £1400."

It is a remarkable fact that four branches of the Borlase family were all suffering at the same time for their adherence to the unfortunate cause in which their loyalty to Charles I. had induced them to embark. The widow of the other Sir John Borlase (Lord Justice of Ireland) and her son could, as we shall presently see, get no redress, on account, doubtless, of the part he and his

¹ Sir John Borlase's name, for a like amount, is also contained in the printed list of forfeitures.

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father had taken in the Irish wars; Nicholas Borlase of Tre-luddrow personally petitioned Cromwell, as we shall also find, in vain; Sir John Borlase of Bockmore, as we here see, was imprisoned and fined; and John Borlase of Pendeen, as will appear in the sequel, had dragoons quartered on him for assisting in raising a troop of horse for the King.

The portraits of Sir John Borlase, and of his wife, are amongst those at Kingston Lacy which are by Vandyck. They were recently exhibited in London, when the writer of this paper obtained Mr. Bankes's permission to have them reproduced by permanent photography. The series by Vandyck is as follows:—

King Charles I.
 Queen Henrietta Maria.
 The Prince of Wales (Chas. II).
 The Duke of York (Jas. II).
 The Princess Mary (of Orange).
 Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice.
 Weston, Duke of Portland (Lord High Treasurer).
 Sir John Borlase (M.P. for Corfe Castle in 1641).
 Lady Borlase (eldest daughter of Sir John Bankes).

Sir John Borlase died at Bockmer on the 8th of August, 1672, and was buried at Little Marlow on the 12th.

In his will, which is dated August 7, 1672, he is styled Sir John Borlase of Bockmore in the parish of Medmenham, Bucks, Bart. It was proved by his son and executor, Sir John Borlase, Bart., August 19, 1672. He bequeaths all his real and personal estate to his eldest son, in trust to pay to each of his younger children, at the age of 18, the same portion which he gave to his elder "daughter Langton." (P.C.C. 98, Eure).

He married Alice, elder daughter of Sir John Bankes, knt., Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by Mary daughter of Ralph Hawtrey of Riselip, co. Middlesex,—the celebrated Lady Bankes who defended Corfe Castle. They were married 14 December, 1637, at St. Giles's in the Fields. She died 16 November, 1683, aged 62, and is buried in the churchyard at St. Jaques, Paris. The monumental inscription is very curious. Mr. Cokayne has kindly supplied me with the following translation of it, together with a curious note relating to Lady Borlase. The lady who wrote it, as he tells me, was the widow of the Hon. William Cokayne, who died in 1809, and to whom (and not to herself) Lady Borlase was great-great-grandmother. It was copied by Mr. Cokayne from a MS. book belonging to his mother, the Hon. Mary Anne Adams (see pedigree).

"The Epitaph upon the tomb of my great-grandmother, the Lady Borlase, whose body was interred in the parish churchyard of St. James' at Paris, and who brought over the model of our Blessed Saviour's Sepulchre from Jerusalem, also the Cabinet which is now (1827) at Stapleford Hall, Notts, and the Pope's indulgence.

"The following inscription is a liberal translation from the Latin engraved on the tomb of the Lady Borlase, which I saw at Paris, 1778.—BARBARA COCKAYNE MEDLYCOTT."

Whoever ——— you ——— be

Stop a little at the Miracle of Heavenly Grace,
Here lies the most noble Lady, Alice Bancks, daughter to the Lord
Chief Justice of England,

Wife of the noble Sir John Borlase, Baronet,
Who, seeking a cure for her infirm body, at the water of Bourbon,
Received, most happily, the cure of her soul in the Catholic Church,
A free exile from her country within 3 years of 60.
She, by God's particular inspiration, travelled thro' France, Flanders, Italy,
Palestine and Cyprus,

That she might have greater testimonies of her Piety and Faith.
Was held in admiration at Rome and Jerusalem, like a new St. Bridget,

Nay revered by Barbarians themselves,
At the greatest dangers both by sea and land always undaunted, everywhere admired,
Shewing a glorious example of virtue.

At last having run thro' the suffering she undertook for Christ's sake,
Laden with merits, she departed to enjoy an Eternal Rest and Crown
Nov. 16th, year 1683, aged 62.

Ordered in her will that she should be buried among the Poor
Whose nurse she was.

Sir John Borlase
Placed this against his beloved Mother's tomb.

Her will, which is dated 8 January, 1679, was proved 31 January, 1684, by Sir Humphrey Millar, Bart., Joseph Langton, Arthur Warren, and John Webb, Esq^{rs}, being her executors (P.C.C. 1, Hare). The witnesses are,—Thomas Fortescue, Thomas Powell, and Mary Powell. To her son, Sir John Borlase of Bockmore, she leaves £300 and her household goods. The poor of Medmenham, Lurgarshall, and Little Marlow, in Bucks, and of Stretton Awdley, in Oxfordshire, are to receive £10 for each parish. The rest of the will is taken up by bequests to grandchildren.

The death of Lady Borlase¹ in Paris gave occasion to a very curious proceeding. The "Farmer General of the King's domains" in France, seized upon her personal estate under pretence that, as a foreigner, she was subject to the 'Droit d'Aubains,'—a law by which the goods and chattels of foreign subjects dying in France became the property of the Crown. The following letters on the subject will explain the matter.²

Letter from LORD PRESTON to MR. SECRETARY JENKINS.

Paris ? Nov. 24, 1683. "The farmers of this King's domain have seized upon the goods and personal estate of my Lady Borlase who died here the other day, under pretence of her being subject as a stranger to the Droit d'Aubains. Application has been made to me, and I am in hopes to obtain a restitution of them. The King's Scotch subjects are allowed to be exempted from that law here, and in my time one or two cases have happened by the death of some of them in which no trouble hath been given. But this privilege and exemption is disputed by the English subjects, and I should be glad from you, Sir, to know how the matter is understood in England, and how am I to behave myself in regard to them: when my Lord of St. Albans was his Majesty's Ambassador here upon a case which then happened he obtained an arrêt of the Council of State in favour of the English—a copy of which I have."

¹ Lady Borlase is mentioned as "Dame Anne Borlase" in her son Baldwin's will in 1679.

² Hist. MSS. Commission, Report 7, p. 293 b. From Sir F. Graham's MSS.—Lord Preston's Letter Books.

(SAME to SAME. Dec. 22, 1683.) "Upon the instances which I have made in the affair of my Lady Borlase an arrest hath passed in the last Council of State which orders the restitution of the effects of the said Lady, seized under the pretence of the *Droit d'Aubeine*, to her executors and heirs. A clause is also inserted prohibiting the farmers of the domains to sell any part of the goods for satisfying the expenses of the seizure, as they pretended to do; but the arrest specifieth that this restitution shall be without consequences for the future."

(SAME to SAME.) Jan. 5th, 1684 (1683 in original, but?) "I am very happy that his Majesty is satisfied with my endeavours in this late affair of my Lady Borlase. The gracious return that he is pleased to make to me for doing my duty is too great. I think that his Majesty has very well resolved to let that affair rest as it is, without making any attempt for a general declaration in favour of the English, for we can now, if any new occasion happens, upon very good grounds demand another arrest, and the general matter may be regulated hereafter by some new treaty of commerce."

Paris, July 1st, 1684. LORD PRESTON to the EARL OF SUNDERLAND. "Just as I am writing this, Mr. Walker, one of the executors of Mr. Orde, the banquier, lately deceased here, hath brought me the copy of the requeste of Mon^r. Fauconnet, Farmer-General of the king's domains, which I enclose. Your Lordship will find by it that notwithstanding the arrests which I have obtained, sealed with the Great Seal of France, and signed by his most Christian Majesty, in the cases of my Lady Borlase, and of Mr. Ord, there is a design to deprive their heirs of the advantages which they may reap by their succession. My Lord, these are tricks which are practised in no place in the world but here, and if some notice be not taken of it to Mon^r. Barillon, that he may represent the King's resentment of this kind of proceeding hither, and if some intimation be not given that the French subjects dying in the King's dominions shall receive the same treatment, it will be impossible to serve his Majesty as he ought to be, for we shall never know when our orders are executed, if this be permitted. One thing I shall observe to your lordship, which is that for the 3rd part of Mr. Ord's Aubeyne, Mon^r. Fauconnet demands 20 thousand £ which is more than all that he hath left doth amount to, so that the design is deprive his heirs of the whole succession. I humbly beg of your Lordship to let me hear from you upon this subject upon the first occasion."¹

Sir John Borlase, Bart., had issue:—

- (1) Sir John Borlase, Bart., son and heir, of whom presently.
- (2) Baldwin Borlase. Bapt. Mar. 23, 1655. Died unmarried, at Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, 18 July, 1688. Will made June 28, 1679. Commission granted (P.C.C. 149, Ent.), 15 Nov., 1689, to Arthur Warren, Esq., the executor named in the will of Sir John Borlase, Bart.,—who was the executor and residuary legatee nominated by Baldwin Borlase, of Bockmore in the parish of Medmenham, to administer to the goods of the said deceased, Sir John Borlase the executor having died before carrying out the execution of the said will. He is mentioned in his sister Amy's will, in 1673, for £500 when 21. There is a monumental inscription at Stratton Audley to his memory.
- (3) William Borlase, died by drowning and was buried at Little Marlow, 28 June, 1664.
- (4) Charles Borlase died 5 February, 1652; buried at Little Marlow.
- (5) Alexander Borlase, born 7 April, 1654; died 19 March, 1655; buried at Little Marlow.
- (6) Mary, sister and coheir of Sir John Borlase; married Sir Humphrey Millar of Oxenheath (or Oxenhoth), co. Kent,

¹ See also Historical MSS. Comm. Report, vii, pp. 331-410.

knt., and Bart., at Medmenham, March, 1663; by whom she had issue,—Nicholas Borlase (to whom his aunt Amy leaves £200 in 1673), Elizabeth and Mary Millar; mentioned in their grandmother, Lady Borlase's will, in 1679, and in Sir John Borlase's (their uncle's) for £1,500 each.

(7) Francis, sister and coheir of Sir John Borlase, married Joseph Langton¹ of Newton Park (Newton St. Loe), co. Somerset, Esq., by whom she had—Henry, Francis, Dorothea, Mary, and Anne Langton, the first four mentioned in their grandmother's will, and all five in Sir John Borlase's will for £1,500 each.

(8) Alice (*uls.* Anne) Borlase, sister and coheir of Sir John Borlase of Bockmore, bapt. March 12, 1656. Died August 1703. Buried at Stapleford. She married Arthur Warren of Stapleford in the County of Nottingham, Esq., who died Nov. 1697; buried at Stapleford. His will is dated 2 Nov., 1694; and it was proved in Dec. 1697 (301, Pyne). He had issue:—

(1) Arnold Warren, 1st son. Bapt. at Stapleford 17 Oct., 1678. *Ob. s. p.* Mentioned in his grandmother Lady Borlase's will, for £100, and for £1500 in Sir John Borlase's, his uncle's, will.

(2) Arthur Warren, 2nd son. Bapt. at Stapleford 15 Nov., 1681. Buried at Stapleford Oct. 1, 1727. Left £1500 in Sir John Borlase's will.

(3) Charles Warren, 3rd son. Bapt. at Stapleford 8 June, 1683. *Ob. s. p.*

(4) James Warren of Little Marlow, 4th and last surviving son. Bapt. at Stapleford 22 July, 1686. Died unmarried 28 March, 1774, aged 89; buried at Little Marlow, where is his monumental inscription.

(5) John Warren, 5th son. Bapt. at Stapleford 20 July, 1690. *Ob. s. p.*

(6) Baldwyn Warren, 6th son. Bapt. at Stapleford 15 March, 1693; buried there 2 Jan., 1694.

(7) Borlase Warren of Stapleford, Esq., 7th and youngest son, mentioned in his grandmother's will for £100, and for £1500 in Sir John Borlase's. M.P. for Nottingham from 1727 to 1747. Died May 15th 1747; buried at

¹ In the parish church of Newton St. Loe, near Bath, is a monument of the Langton family, quartering the arms of Borlase, and on the monument:—

“Ejusdem sepulchri gremio contumulantur Thomas, Elizabetha, Johannes, Joseph, Borlasius, deliciae breves parentum quos tenellâ ætate ad meliora rapuere fata.

“Hic etiam acceperunt ætate proveciori Maria et Dorothea. Maria annos circiter quindecim expleverat; Dorothea ad vicissimum usque primum suos senioribus annis exhibent, promisit in primis. Digna senio, juventuti floruit, sed debitam meritis sedem cum non habuit in terris, properavit ad cælum, annorum numerum dotibus et moribus exæquans. 1701”

Stapleford. He married Anne, d. of Sir John Harpur of Calke and Swerkston, co. Derby, Bart., by Anne his wife, 2nd d. of William Lord Willoughby of Parham. Buried at Stapleford, 3 April, 1751. Of their descendants, see presently.

(8) Anne Warren, eldest daughter, bapt. at Stapleford 27 Nov., 1684. Married Charles Cockaine, 4th. Viscount Cullen, of Ireland.

(9) Elizabeth Warren, 2nd and youngest daughter, bapt. at Medmenham, 13 April, 1692. Died unmarried.

(9) Katherine Borlase, d. of Sir John Borlase, Bart. ; married John Webbe of Missenden, co. Bucks, Esq. She died before 8 Jan., 1679—leaving issue (with others ?),—John Webbe, mentioned in his grandmother Lady Borlase's will, for £200, and in his uncle's (Sir John Borlase's) for £1500.

(10) Amy Borlase, "of Newton St. Loe, Somerset, singlewoman," d. of Sir John Borlase, Bart. Will made 31 Oct., 1673 ; proved 17 Dec., the same year, by Joseph Langton, Esq., executor. She leaves £10 to the poor of each of the parishes of Newton St. Loe, Medmenham, Little and Great Marlow, Ludgilson, and Stratton Awdley. To her brother Baldwin Borlase she leaves £500, at the age of 21. To Borlase Miller, son of Sir Humph. Miller, £200 for binding him apprentice. To her eldest brother, Sir John Borlase, £100. To her sister, Anne Borlase, £200 at 21. To Anne, the d. of Mr. William Redwood, of the city of Bristol, and to my goddaughter Amie Dickison, and to my godson Benjamin, the son of John Harrington, Esq., £50 each, at the age of 21 or on marrying. To Mr. William Deane of Bockmore, clerk, £10. To Mr. John Price, minister of Newton St. Loe, and Mr. Joseph Baker, minister of Corston, Mr. John Paul, minister of Stanton Prior, Doctor Robert Pearce, and Mr. Henry Parker, £5 each." Other bequests to servants.

(To be continued)

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GODCHILDREN.

By CONSTANCE E. B. RYE.

In what may be termed the "*romance* of family history" the claimants to fictitious dignities and honours have always been well represented numerically. Among such "honours" may be included the envied distinction of having had a Royal sponsor at the baptismal font. It is to be feared, however, that in far too many instances these carefully handed down family traditions are utterly devoid of foundation, and can be readily disproved by very slight research.