



EARLE OF ALLERTON TOWER.

By T. Algernon Earle.

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I.

THE family of Earle of Spekelands and afterwards of Allerton Tower has for the last three or four centuries been resident in South Lancashire, tracing direct descent from Robert Earle, living about 1550, at Stockton, near the ancient market town of Warrington.

Scattered among the hamlets and villages of Lancashire and Cheshire, records first disclose them as country people, following various agricultural pursuits in the fertile valley of the Mersey. As prosperity began to develope this secluded district and seafaring men came up the country, the thoughts of the inhabitants were directed to the stirring life and awakening energy of the towns; and the Earles, with other local families, went to seek their fortunes in the neighbouring ports. Shortly before 1600 we find them settled at Warrington, where the parish registers and the records of the older churches round—Runcorn, Daresbury,

Frodsham, Grappenhall, and Winwick—contain numerous entries of their name towards the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the succeeding century.

The registers of Warrington commence with an isolated page in 1592, on which there is a record of the burial of Ellin, daughter of Richard Earle; and later, in 1625 and after, there are many entries, which I detail elsewhere, in the Appendix. The Runcorn books commence in 1567, one page only, 1550, being extant of earlier date. Those at Winwick are equally old. Daresbury registers, too, are very early, and Frodsham commence 1558 (the latter imperfect during the Commonwealth). In all of these some of the earliest record marriages and deaths of an apparently widely spread family and numerous branches of the Earles.

But in actual point of time the first notice, so far as I have discovered, of any of the name resident in or connected with this neighbourhood, occurs in the year 4 and 5 Philip and Mary (1557), when there is a lawsuit recorded in the "State Papers" in which a certain Henry Erle is given as defendant, together with one Richard Penketh, in a dispute connected with lands at Bold Manor, county Lancaster. The plaintiff is Richard Bold, Esq., of Bold, then the head of that old family, and he appears to have sued the defendants for "Tortious possession of lands and appurtenances, and detention of title deeds."

The Penkeths with whom Henry Erle is here associated were another family who, from a very early date, had lands at Penketh, a township close to Warrington; and Richard Penketh appears elsewhere as the trustee and confidential adviser of Sir Thomas Boteler, Baron of Warrington, 1 Edward VI. (1547).

This first notice then brings the family name to light in good company, and though it is in the unenviable position of a defendant, little evil need be inferred from that. At this early date "the law," says Beamont, in his *Annals*, p. 457, "was either very unsettled, or our ancestors must have been of a litigious, refractory temper, for every transaction seems to have given rise to more than one lawsuit." Offences, in fact, such as forcible entries and wrongful possession of lands seem to have been of constant occurrence, even among the highest born, and this very year (1557) the Baron of Warrington is himself sued for a like injustice.

Prior to this date, though there are many old documents extant—rent rolls, title deeds, &c.—which make mention of inhabitants and tenancies in this neighbourhood a good deal earlier, I have never discovered in those that I have seen any record of the Earles.

They seem, however, to have been settled there in large numbers at this time, and Wills are to be seen at Chester (commencing 1587), a list of which is given in the Appendix, which discover them, chiefly as yeomen and gentlemen, resident in most of the villages within a radius of some seven miles from Warrington; and, indeed, their numbers are so considerable that, in spite of the name being unusual, I am led to think they were not all of the same family or possibly of the same original stock. As we have seen, however, that branch from which is descended the family the subject of this memoir originated with Robert Earle, who came, if we may believe that not always very reliable historian Randle Holme (the third of that name), from a somewhat vague locality which he terms "the North of England."

EARLE OF STOCKTON, CO. CHESTER.

Among his unpublished MSS. at the British Museum (Harl. MS. 2161, p. 205, 58) there is a pedigree, given in the Appendix, which states that—

Robert Earle of Stockton, co. Cest., “descended “out of the North of England,” had two sons, John and George [Gregory ?].

I. The elder, John, had two sons, Robert, and Adam of Chester; the latter alive in 1660, the year when the pedigree was evidently recorded.

II. The younger, George [Gregory ?], had a son, Peter, minister of Northwich in 1660; which Peter, grandson of the first Robert in the pedigree, had, as we shall presently see, also a brother John, a brewer at Warrington.

Holme tricks on the pedigree a coat of arms, *Argent, three pallets Sable*; and a crest, *a lion's gamb holding a harpoon point downwards*; similar to the arms and crest borne by the family who came to Liverpool twenty-eight years later.

I have suggested that it is very probable the various families of Earle who were living round Warrington in the sixteenth century were not all connected. It may seem a superfluous thing to say, but it must be remembered that the yeomen class were not given to much travelling 300 years ago, and the inference would rather be that among the then comparatively sparse population of this district of Lancashire those of the same name, especially if it were an uncommon one, would be related. Possibly some of these Earles may have been natives of the soil, and may not have come, like the branch recorded by Holme, from the North of England or elsewhere.

THE NAME OF EARLE.

Let us endeavour to look a little further than to the dry facts of pedigree, to ascertain the history of the name. Whether it bears evidence of former occupations, position, or surroundings of the family, or be a pure simple patronymic, it may possibly repay us to discover it in its earliest form and origin. Somewhat unusual as, perhaps, it is at the present day, there are many notices of the surname Earle in old writings; notices of ancient families in far-away parts of England, and notices of isolated individuals, eminent and otherwise. We find them in all guises, from the landowner dwelling in his ancestral halls to the peasant only rescued from oblivion by some chance note of the antiquary's pen; we find them on the battlefield and in the senate, in the pulpit and on the bench, generals, statesmen, writers, great lawgivers and great criminals, emigrants, adventurers, witches; all alike bearing, though variously spelt, the name of Earle.

To the spelling of ancient names very little importance is to be attached; the heralds even, in their periodical visitations of the sixteenth century, seem to have had no scruples on the subject of orthography so long as phonetic requirements were satisfied, and those requirements, too, they or their informants frequently disregarded. As usual, most arbitrary and very confusing variations occur in the mode of spelling the name of Earle. The family of oldest recorded descent that bears it is that of the Erles of Charborough Park, in Devon,* who are said to have come to England with William the Norman, and settled at Erleigh in Berkshire, of which manor they received a grant,

* *Rotuli Hundredarum* (Edward I.), pp. 128-9. Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. ii, p. 198; vol. iii, p. 53. Hutchin's *Dorset*. Harl. MSS., 1166, fo. 20; 888, fo. 416; 1451, fos. 35, 162; 1539, fo. 108.

and from which they took their name, varying as de Erleigh, de Erlega, d'Erley, Erley, Earle, or Erle at different periods. This Charborough family was much split up into branches, and is now represented by the daughters and coheiresses of the late John Samuel Wanley-Sawbridge-Erle-Drax, Esq., M.P., a gentleman who had no less than four surnames, the estates of the Erles having passed for five generations through the female line in the last 200 years.

This, then, the reputed oldest family, is of Norman extraction, but the name is of more ancient origin. The word "Earle or Earl," says Carter, in his *Honor Redivivus* (published 1673), "we had from the Saxons, from whence, till we borrowed the word Honor, we used the word 'Earl for 'gentle' or 'noble', and 'Ethel' which was sometimes abridged to 'El', so that of 'Ear-Ethel' it was 'Ear-el', and by abbreviation 'Earl', which the Dutch call 'Eorle.'"

Primarily the word signified "a man; a man of valour or distinction; vir. Afterwards, a head, ruler, leader, or hero: Finally, a nobleman of the highest rank, equivalent to an Ealdorman, an Earl."*

In a little volume entitled *Knutsford and its Vicinity*, by H. Green, there is a list of local Lancashire and Cheshire names, taken from certain old legal documents dated 1734, among which appears the name of Earle, written both with and without the final vowel. The author there derives it from the Danish Eorla, "senior", and in speaking of the list, which contains sixty-four names, he goes on to examine the probable origin of them all. "One name only in the list is Latin," he writes; "five or six are French, *i.e.*, Norman, and all the rest are taken from the language and cir-

* *Dictionary of Etymology.*

“cumstances of a people decidedly Teutonic or
“Scandinavian. The mark of antiquity is stamped
“upon them all; and inasmuch as this list is, I
“believe, an accurate type of the names of our
“Cheshire people generally, we arrive at the con-
“clusion that essentially the vast majority of the
“inhabitants possess an ancestry far anterior to
“the battle of Hastings, and belong to what the
“last Earl of Bridgewater describes as ‘the old,
“‘genuine, original native families of England.’”

Accepting this theory, the possibility occurs of a more ancient origin for the Earles of Lancashire and Cheshire than the Norman stem, and that the Saxon name may imply Saxon blood: we must bear in mind, however, that surnames were not in very common use for some time after the Conquest, and in looking for traces of our ancestors among the pristine inhabitants of Lancashire and Cheshire, or further north, we likely enough should not recognise them by our name of the present day.

Again, in many cases where it occurs it may have nothing to do with the Scandinavian or Saxon derivation; in old days it was the commonest thing to give a man a soubriquet, such as “Iak o’ the Hey”, “Roger del Wode”, &c., and even as late as 1465 we find these instances in an old rent roll of property belonging to the Legh family in Warrington.

There was an ancient term which was constantly used in Cheshire and the western counties for the Ered or ploughed Ley, which the country folk called “Erly.” It appears at p. 99 of the seventy-fourth volume of the Chetham Society’s series, “Rental of the Manor of Assheton-under-Lyne “in 1422”—

“William of the Woodfield for a lond at
“Erley 4^s.”

It is not impossible that this William might become William of the Erley, and his children adopt the name after him, as doubtless was done in many cases by the ancestors of such families as the Heyes, Woods, Hills, &c., of to-day. However this may be, it is a curious fact that we find at the Heralds' Office an old grant of arms to a Cheshire family of that name and spelt in that manner—

“ Erley or Erly (Cheshire). *Gu. a fesse Arg.*
“ *in chief three plates.*”

I merely touch on these points, however, to show that because a family has the same name as another, it does not necessarily follow that it has sprung from the same source, as many are apt to suppose.

Speaking of the Erles of Charborough Park, there are many others that I take to be branches of that family—the Earles of Gillingham, the Earles of Salisbury, of Westbury and Southampton, of Chute Forest and Collingbourne, and the Earles of Eastcourt in Wilts, all neighbouring more or less to the original seat;* and those more distant branches, the Earles of Swallowfield Place in Berkshire, of High Ongar in Essex, of Topsfield and Craiglethorpe in Lincolnshire, of Boston, of Nottingham and of Leicester.† But it is unnecessary to discuss these families here; some have been extinct many years.

I would mention one old and apparently distinct family of Earle, whose history is very fully recorded in Bloomfield's *History of Norfolk*—the Earles of Heydon Hall, ancestors of the Earle-Bulwers, and of Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer, first Lord

* Hoare's *Wiltshire. Collect. Top. et Gen.*, vol. viii, p. 190. *Misc. Top. et Gen.*, vol. vi. Le Neve's *Pedigrees of Knights* (Harl. Soc.) *Calendar of House of Lords, 1664.*

† Betham's *Baronetage*, vol. i, p. 477. Nichols' *Leicester*, vol. ii, pp. 1, 123. Le Neve's *Baronets*, vol. ii, p. 103. Thoroton's *Nottingham*, vol. ii, p. 11. *Visitation of Lincolnshire, 1634* (Heralds' College). *Herald et Gen.*, J. G. Nichols.

Lytton. As far back as 1360 they owned lands at Salle, adjoining Heydon, and by their early deeds their surname was then written "le Erle", which, from the use of the nominative rather than the genitive article, would seem to imply, so far as old names imply anything, that it was assumed from some consideration of birth or position rather than, as was the case with the Charborough family, from the place of their first settlement.

"In the North of England", to use the words of Randle Holme—*i.e.*, probably, in counties north of Lancashire—there were a large number of Earles resident in and about York, of whom was the well-known Bishop Earle, Chaplain to Charles II., Bishop of Worcester and afterwards of Salisbury.* There are many Wills of Earles recorded at York, and the testators hail from many different localities, as far south as the boundaries of Nottingham.

Further north still we find traces of Earles in the distant province of Durham, and at a very early period. In Bishop Hatfield's survey of that See, *circa* 1382†—

"Willelmus Erle ten. j. mess. et xxx acr'
"terræ quondom T. Belsowe" in Chester
Ward, Bedlyngton, a parish on the River
Blythe, "et red. p.a. 8s 6d."

And again, in the Scargill pedigree‡—

"Jane, dau. of Christopher Earl, of Saulis-
"bury, Durham, married Sir Robert Scargill
"of Thorpe (Yorkshire)."

There is also a will at Somerset House, dated 1659,

* Clarendon's *Estate Papers*, vol. ii, p. 348. Gwilym's *Heraldry*. Hoare's *Wills. Westminster Abbey Registers*, p. 523.

† Surtees Soc. Pub., vol. xxxii.

‡ *Herald et Gen.*, vol. iv, p. 409.

of Thomas Earle of Cumwhitton, co. Cumberland, who names his brothers Robert and Christopher.

In glancing, however, at these several families, which I do with the interest naturally attaching to a namesake, I have no present intention of claiming connection between them and the Earles of Liverpool and South Lancashire. Let us pursue now our special quest, and return to the pedigree given by Randle Holme.

EARLE OF WIGAN.

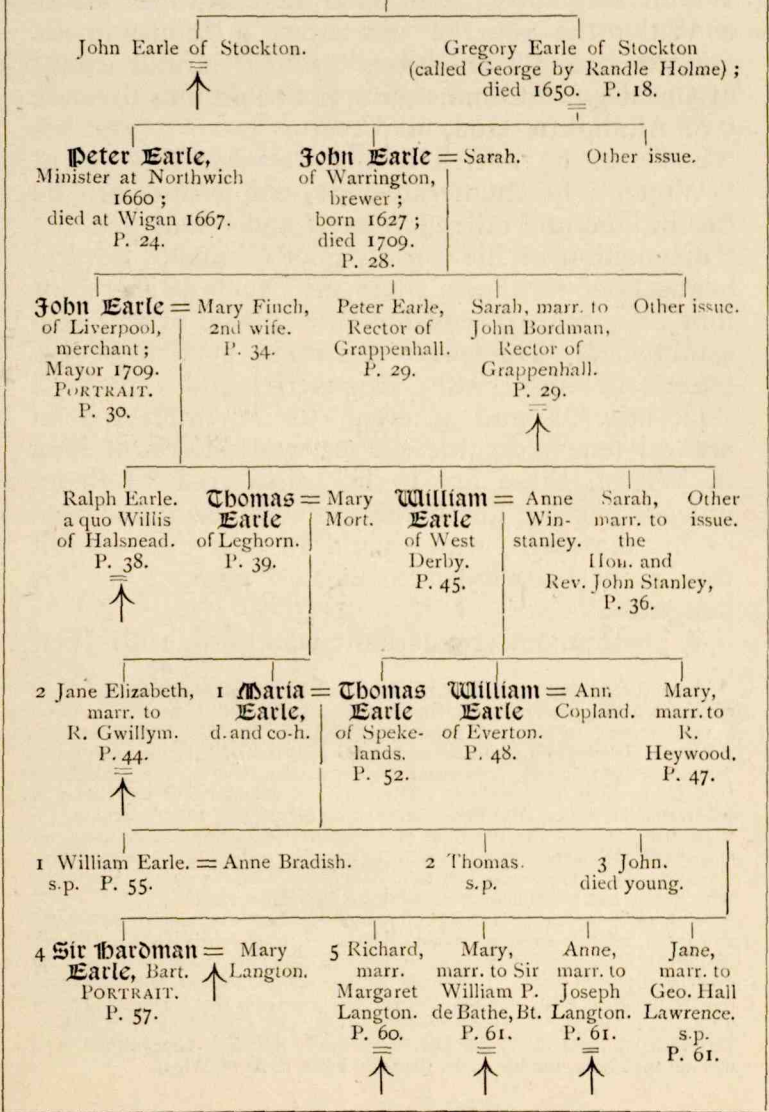
Peter Earle, grandson to Robert of Stockton, minister at Northwich in 1660, signs the registers of that place in 1660-2, and was one of the temporary ministers who, according to Mr. Ormerod, filled the living for the first six years after the Restoration. He is mentioned by Adam Martindale in his autobiography, printed by the Chetham Society (vol. iv, p. 147):—"Mr. Earle, minister of "that place," he writes, upon the occasion of his being summoned before the Justices at Northwich, in January, 1660, "interposing a few words on my behalf to sweeten them, had like to have been committed for his labour, as he soon after wrote "to me." He would seem to have been of the Royalist clergy. About two years after the Restoration he went to Wigan, where he was in charge of that important living during the rectorship of Dr. Hall, then also Lord Bishop of Chester, and he signs the registers there in 1664. He is styled of "Standishgate", which is the principal street in Wigan.

He married, at the parish church of Wigan, on the 12th April, 1664, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Mawdesley, Esq., of Mawdesley,* whose pedigree is recorded by Sir William Dugdale in his

* See "Dugdale's Visitation" (Chetham Soc. Pub.)

KEY PEDIGREE.

Robert Earle of Stockton, co. Chester,
 "descended out of the North of England."
 P. 18.



Visitation, and Peter Earle's marriage is also given there.*

By this lady he had a daughter, Dorothy. He died shortly after her birth (14th March, 1667—Wigan Registers), and upon his deathbed made a Will "the year of our Lord a thousand six hundred and sixty-seven", which is still extant at Chester. "Commending his soule into th' ande of Allmightie God, his Creator and his bodie to be buried in the Parishe Churche at Wigan", he enumerates the various interests he has in land and other property, and "touching the disposition of his worldly goods" makes several bequests of furniture, silver, &c., such as represent him as a man of considerable substance and well established. He leaves the main portion of his effects to his "wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Dorothy"; and whereas he is interested in several tenements, messuages, and parcels of land in Wigan, these are to be transferred to them, unless after his death there should be a son born of his marriage, who should in that case inherit this property, subject to certain charges for his daughter.

A posthumous son actually was born, 16th July,

* In the history of Wigan written by Mr. David Sinclair there is an erroneous notice concerning the family of Mawdesley and of the Earles, which it may be well to take this opportunity to correct. Mr. Sinclair says:—"Robert Mawdesley's sons died unmarried; his second daughter, Elizabeth, the only one of his children married, married the Rev. Peter Earle, Rector of Grappenhall in Cheshire. They are the ancestors of the Earles of Liverpool. Robert Mawdesley on the 21st September, 1657, purchased for £80 the estate of the Bamfords of Mawdesley and Heskin Hall, from Sir Richard Molyneux. His will is dated 9th September, 1651; in that same year he died. He bequeathed to his daughters, Dorothy and Elizabeth, all his goods, and to his heir, Alexander, his two signet rings."

Now as a matter of fact though two of Robert Mawdesley's sons did die unmarried, another survived, named Alexander, who married and succeeded his father, recording his pedigree at Ormskirk in 1664. Robert Mawdesley died in 1659, not 1651. It was not he, but his grandfather, who purchased the Heskin New Hall from Sir Richard Molyneux, for that sale took place in 2 Charles I. (1627). (Chetham Soc. Pub., vols. xxii, xxxix, lxxxv). Elizabeth Mawdesley did not marry the Rev. Peter Earle, Rector of Grappenhall, who was not then born, but his uncle, the Rev. Peter Earle of Wigan.

1668, but neither he nor the daughter lived long. Letters of administration were taken out on the 4th May, 1669, of the goods of Peter Earle, minor, deceased, son of Peter Earle, clerk, late of Wigan, deceased; and 11th May, 1669, of Dorothea Earle, deceased. These letters were taken out by an uncle, styled John Earle of Warrington, Elizabeth Earle, the mother, having died also, and been buried 24th April, 1669.

The testator, Peter Earle, further states that he "is possessed of certain messuages and lands in "Lostock Graleham, co. Chester (near to North-wich) for a certain term of years terminable upon "lives", and in disposing of these he makes bequests to his "brother Thomas and his four "daughters", leaving the residue to his nephew John Earle, son of the said Thomas, excepting a small sum to be given his sister Mary Rabone.* He concludes by reserving "the great table in my "hall in my house at Wigan", which he directs "shall not be solde, but pass as an heirloome" in his family. His wife is nominated his executrix with his "brother, John Earle" and his friend, Myles Turner of Wigan, as joint guardians and trustees. His witnesses are Thomas Mort and Robert Mort.

A seal is affixed to the will, which shows the same arms, three pallets, and the crest as tricked in Holme's MS.

EARLE OF WARRINGTON.

Holme's pedigree makes no mention of Peter's brothers, John and Thomas, who were living at Warrington; and he would seem to be incorrect in giving their father's name as George, for among

* Rabone appears to have been another form of the name of the family of Rathbone. Both occur frequently in the registers of this period about Warrington.

the registers at the parish church in Warrington there are several entries I take to be of this family :—

1625, Nov. 20th.	John, son of Gregory Earle, baptized.
1625-6, March 9th.	John, son of Gregory Earle, buried.
1626-7, Feb. 20th.	John, son of Gregory Earle, baptized.
1632, March.	Peter, son of Gregory Earle, baptized.
1633, March.	Adam, son of Gregory Earle, baptized.
1634, June.	Adam, son of Gregory Earle, buried.

In each instance the name of the father being Gregory, and there is no entry in the registers of any Earle called George. Possibly the letters of both names being something similar, it may be an error of abbreviation, or of a copyist; but this Holme was notoriously slovenly. Gregory Earle died, according to the register, in 1650.

John Earle of Warrington, brother of the minister Peter, by his wife, Sarah, had six children, whose baptisms, with the exception of one daughter, are registered at Warrington as follows :—

1674, Oct. 29th.	John,	son of John Earle, baptized.
1675, Nov. 23rd.	Jane,	dau. of John Earle, baptized.
168c, Oct. 7th.	Peter,	son of John Earle, baptized.
1683, June 8th.	Katherine,	dau. of John Earle, baptized.
1683-4, Feb. 28th.	Thomas,	son of John Earle, baptized.
	Sarah,	dau. of John Earle.

He seems to have been one of the principal inhabitants of the place, was elected rector's churchwarden of the parish in 1663, then an important office after the Restoration, and treasurer and trustee of the Warrington Blue Coat School 1677-1709. (*Trans. Hist. Soc. Lanc. and Chesh.*, vol. xxii.)

His house, Mr. Beaumont tells us, was in the Church Street, and assessed higher than any other in the town; "possibly a picturesque old house, "now taken down, which used to be called the

“Earl’s lodgings, from some idea that Lord Derby “had lived in it during the civil war.” He possessed part patronage of the neighbouring rectory of Grappenhall; and he was, as I have already said, a brewer of Warrington ales, which, according to our Lancashire historian, Leigh, were as famous then as the Walkers and Greenalls have made them since.

How he came to be patron of the Grappenhall living, which belonged up to that time to the Bordman family, is not quite certain; but I find that William Bordman, Rector of Grappenhall, whose Will was proved 19th October, 1688, left to his eldest son John, then under 24 years of age, all his tenements and lands in Bolton and Darley, co. Lancaster, and the patronage of the living of Grappenhall. This John Bordman became Rector, and, having previously married Sarah, daughter of John Earle, died in January, 1705-6, when the next presentation became vested in John Earle and another, I presume by some family arrangement with the widow. Sarah Bordman, the Rector’s widow, died at Bolton, and was buried at Grappenhall, 24th March, 1759.

John Earle died in 1709, long after his eldest son had migrated to the neighbouring haven of Liverpool, to found there the family still connected with that city.

Peter, his second son, went to Brasenose College, of which he became a fellow. He followed in the steps of his uncle, Peter Earle of Wigan, took orders, and, on the 29th January, 1706, was inducted, on the joint presentation of his father and of Mr. Nicholas Starkie, to the rectory of Grappenhall. He did not live long, however, to enjoy it, and died on the 11th November, 1708, unmarried, being buried in his own churchyard.

II.

EARLE OF LIVERPOOL.

We now come to the commencement of the history of the family in Liverpool, where it was destined for six consecutive generations to remain a race of merchants, whose stability, credit, and consistency, considering the revolutions occurring in the communities of all great cities, were not a little remarkable. Its offshoots from time to time took root in other soil, its interests multiplied, and its influence and connections extended to many other spheres, but still the main stem stood firmly planted where the seeds of its growth were sown long ago on the banks of the River Mersey.

John Earle, the eldest son of John Earle of Warrington, left his father's house in 1688, at the age of 14—such was the usual age for a young man commencing business 200 years ago. He was sent to the house of William Clayton, Member of Parliament, one of the Claytons of Fullwood and Clayton, a merchant and shipowner of high standing in Liverpool, of whom there is some account in the volume of "Norris Papers" published by the Chetham Society.

With this gentleman he was connected for many years, and his interests, political and other, seem to have been identical with those of his former chief long after he left his house of business. Their names appear together in many subsequent battles of the Liverpool Council, in company with the Brothers Cleveland, Mr. Alderman Tyrer, Mr. Houghton, Mr. Webster, Mr. Thomas Bickersteth, and others equally to the front in the public movements of the period.



John Locke

On the 10th December, 1700, he married Eleanor Tyrer of Liverpool, and that same year we find, by the Corporation records, that he took up his freedom; at this time he was 26 years old, and, no doubt, starting business on his own account. He became engaged in the wine trade,* but like most merchants of his day dealt in iron, tobacco, sugar, or anything else that offered a good investment; having interests in the shipping of the port, and joining, as occasion offered, in the various ventures then commencing to foreign lands.

In 1703 he was evidently a person of local influence, for in that year he became a member of the Council, and under rather unusual circumstances. Municipal honours, it seems, in former days were not so sought for as now, and it was with much reluctance he accepted his new position. Among the papers of the Norris family of Speket there is a letter by Sir Thomas Johnson, at that time the colleague of William Clayton in Parliament, and Whig member for Liverpool; it is as follows, and dated:—

“Liverpool. Oct. 15th, 1703.

“To Mr. Richard Norris.

“Sir,

“I observe you approve of our choice of Council men which is well, since which we have gone further and are resolved to try what we can do. Mr. Earle refusing put me a little upon the thoughts so we resolved to advise with counsel if we could fine any persons that was elected Council men and refused to serve, or could we choose those Mayor or Bailiffs, though they were not actually sworn; to these we have received a satisfactory answer, that they may be indicted and after fined, or a mandamus brought against them to shew cause; upon this Mr. Mayor called a Council, and voted Mr. Cleveland Mr. Hurst and Mr. Earle Council men, and served them with the election under our Corporation Seal, and this day they appeared, but all refused to be sworn. Now we do resolve to elect Mr. Cleveland Mayor, and Mr. Earle one Bailiff. . .”

* Unpublished Norris Papers in possession of the Liverpool Corporation.

† Chetham Society, vol. ix.

For the first few years of the eighteenth century the Whigs were in power in the town, and Johnson as an Alderman, and the head of his party, is here leading the majority in the Council. John Earle thus early in life strenuously opposed this Whig party. The political differences of the two factions then pitted against each other in the State were very keen, and we may readily understand that the friend of William Clayton and the ally of Messrs. Hurst and Cleveland, leading Tories of the period, would not receive much consideration from the opposite party. Mr. Earle was evidently of a determined will, however, for Sir Thomas writes again :—

“October ye 19, 1703.

“ . . . yesterday morning Mr. Mayor found a disposition in Mr. Cleveland, and asked him who he thought on for Bailiffs ; he told him Mr. Earle and Mr. Dean. . . . A great many words we had, and very hot, but too long to tell you. . . Mr. Mayor finding Mr. Earle so positive he would not serve was resolved not to choose him Bailiff, but chose Charles Diggles and Joseph Eaton. We design to proceed against Messrs. Hurst and Earle on Friday, if they come not in. God send them safe.”

Whether he gained his point or no I have not ascertained, but two years later, on the 7th September, 1705, Johnson writes again :—

“Mr. Earle appeared in Council on Wednesday” (as if for the first time).

A month later than this he seems to have been of another mind, and we find him actually resolved to become a Bailiff, and elected in spite of the opposition of the Whigs and their leader !

“It's with no small trouble”, writes a friend of Johnson's, on the 19th October, 1705, “that I give an account of our being foyled yesterday, for Mr. Webster is Mayor, and Mr. Earle and Mr. Fels, Bailiff. . . . what carried the day was the sailors, for they polled 60 more of them than we.”

From this time John Earle's attendance was pretty regular at debate, and in 1709 he succeeded the Earl of Derby as Mayor of the borough, assuming that dignity at the age of 35, and at a period of great activity, progress, and prosperity in the trade of the town. In the last nine years its population had increased at the rate of 50 per cent., and its enterprise and commerce by leaps and bounds. In 1709 the entry of tonnage inwards records 374 ships, 14,574 tons, and outwards 324 ships, 12,636 tons; the whole tonnage of England this year being but 243,693 tons. The first ship sailed this year for Africa, initiating a trade destined to have so large an influence on the wealth of the future city; and the first dock was commenced in the hitherto rough and unformed haven. And not least among the events of his Mayoralty, John Earle witnessed the foundation laid of Bryan Blundell's Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital, of which he was among the first trustees, as his father had been before him of that at Warrington.*

He was at this time a man of some means, for he became the purchaser a little later of a share of the old property belonging to the Moores of Bankhall, and lying in the heart of the old town, by the present Exchange. The site of the portion of this estate that he purchased is indicated at the present day by Earle Street, called after him; and it included St. Paul's Square and some of the land round. The deed of purchase, which was made in conjunction with two attorneys—Mr. Plumbe and Mr. Gildart—states that the conveyance was for £18,000, a very considerable sum in those days, of which Mr. Earle paid one-third. This purchase was made in 1717, and he was at this time possessed also of certain messuages and tenements

* *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lanc. and Chesh.*, vol. ix, p. 171.

situated in Church Street and Toll Bar Street, Warrington, together with some small meadow land near that town under lease from the Right Honourable George, Earl of Warrington, dated September, 1708.

His wife Eleanor Tyrer, by whom he had one son, Thomas (who died an infant), died, and was buried at St. Nicholas', 14th July, 1702; and in the year of his Mayoralty John Earle was married for the second time, to Miss Mary Finch, heiress of the Finches of Watford, who claimed common ancestry with Finch, Earl of Winchester, and niece to Colonel Simon Finch of Tullamore Park, in Ireland, who died s.p. This lady was the only daughter of Ralph Finch, Esq., of Chester, and, through her father's and also her mother's line, the representative of several other families of note.*

Mr. Ralph Finch owned certain real estates in Ireland and Northamptonshire, which he left to his wife and daughter; he died when the latter was very young, in 1685, and I have never correctly traced what became of the property he left. John Earle does not seem to have enjoyed it, for his marriage settlement, which is dated 2nd February, 1709, makes no mention of any large real estate, though by his marriage he acquired a small fortune his wife possessed.

Miss Finch's great-uncle, Colonel Simon Finch of Tullamore Park, Tipperary, had also left his estates by Will (still extant at Chester) to Ralph Finch, her father, without other remainder. Ralph, however, died first, and the Will never being altered by his uncle, the property went to a cousin, a younger branch now represented by John Finch, Esq., of Tullamore Park.†

* See Appendix, Finch Family. † See Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

Where Mr. and Mrs. John Earle lived in their early years of wedded life is not clear; but it may have been upon some part of his property off Old Hall Street, which was then a fashionable part of the town, for I find among the "Registers of the "Right Hon. Richard Lord Viscount Molyneux, "8 July, 1719," at Croxteth, an entry under Old Hall Street, Liverpool:—"A message and tene-
"ment in possession of John Earle." Several of his friends, among them William Clayton, resided near, the latter as we read having a "fine man-
"sion" in Fenwick Street. At one time, as appears from the Liverpool records and registers, he occupied—no doubt as his place of business—some of the rooms and the vaults of the old Stanley Tower, the ancient fortified mansion of the Stanleys, where James 10th Earl of Derby held great state as Mayor in 1735.

John Earle's life was a busy one, and his fortunes were somewhat chequered; sometimes he was successful; sometimes—and especially towards the close of his life—he seems to have suffered considerable losses and disappointments.

He retired from business about the age of 63, and lived then for some years in or near Prescot, where he ended a long and active career in April, 1749, aged 75. His remains are deposited in a family vault in the centre aisle of the parish church of that place, and the inscription on the tombstone can still be deciphered, though now nearly obliterated by the tread of the congregation over it for more than 140 years. His widow survived him but two years; and, dying in 1751, was buried by his side.

Looking back through the changes wrought by a couple of centuries, it is interesting to note the state in which, at the commencement of his sojourn there, John Earle found the "little creek of Leverpoole."

In the year 1688 it possessed something under 5000 inhabitants; it had but one church (the old chapel of St. Nicholas), three or four short and straggling streets, and one imperfectly formed stage, or rather "a pier forming a kind of open harbour." The number of ships belonging to the port was only 60 some twelve years later. At the time of his death the population was quadrupled; there were churches and numerous public buildings springing up all over the town; there were docks sufficient to hold twenty times as many ships, and their Customs were second only to London in the kingdom.

On John Earle then we may look as one of the small handful of men whose active brains moulded the rising destinies of that great city, and whose watchful care and energetic hands laid the solid foundation upon which it stands to-day.

Though he died a comparatively poor man, he left his family settled and in prosperous circumstances. He had seven children, of whom three sons and one daughter only married, and were living at his decease—Ralph, Thomas, William, and Sarah. His family were registered at St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Liverpool, as follows:—

Elizabeth.	B. 29 Dec., 1711.	Buried 6 March, 1718-9.
John.	B. 21 June, 1713.	
Ralph.	B. 1 Oct., 1715.	
Sarah.	B. 10 Nov., 1717.	
Thomas.	B. 20 June, 1719.	
William.	B. 1721.	
Dorothy.		Buried 13 Aug., 1726.

SARAH was married 17th May, 1753, to the Honourable and Reverend JOHN STANLEY, D.D., brother to the 11th Earl of Derby, Rector successively of the rich livings of Liverpool, Bury, Halsall, and Winwick, as his second wife. His first wife, one of the Warrens of Tabley, to whose

memory there is a monument in the Derby Chapel at Ormskirk, had then been dead some years ; she died 5th November, 1737.

Mr. Stanley was first Rector of Lavant in Sussex. On the 20th April, 1726, he became Rector of Liverpool. On the 11th September, 1740, he was presented to Winwick, which, two years later, he resigned for the living of Bury, and in 1750 added to the latter that of Halsall. In 1757, he resigned Halsall, and on the 24th August, 1764, was for the second time presented to Winwick, which he kept until his death, resigning Bury in 1778. (See Beamont's *Winwick*, and the Rev. Thomas Seddon's *Characteristic Strictures on 100 Portraits of Eminent Persons in Lancashire and Cheshire*. The latter writes very favourably of this Rector.) While Rector of Liverpool he lived at the Old Hall, the ancient seat of the Moores ; of which "ancient and capital messuage," according to his marriage settlement, he was seised under a lease made to him by James late Earl of Derby, 16th September, 1734, for a yearly rent of 20 shillings, on the understanding of his rebuilding and restoring it. This he did very completely, and in the transfiguration of its old walls there crumbled away one of the ancient landmarks of Liverpool, where for twenty generations had resided its original manorial lords.

John Stanley died in his 88th year, without issue, 16th May, 1781, leaving numerous bequests to the parishes he had been connected with, and to his relatives. There is a brass plate in the chancel floor at Winwick, and a large marble tablet to his memory on the west wall, surmounted by his family shield impaling Earle. His interest in the Old Hall he left to his wife, who lived on and died there, 1st February, 1809, at the ripe age of 91. She was buried at Winwick.

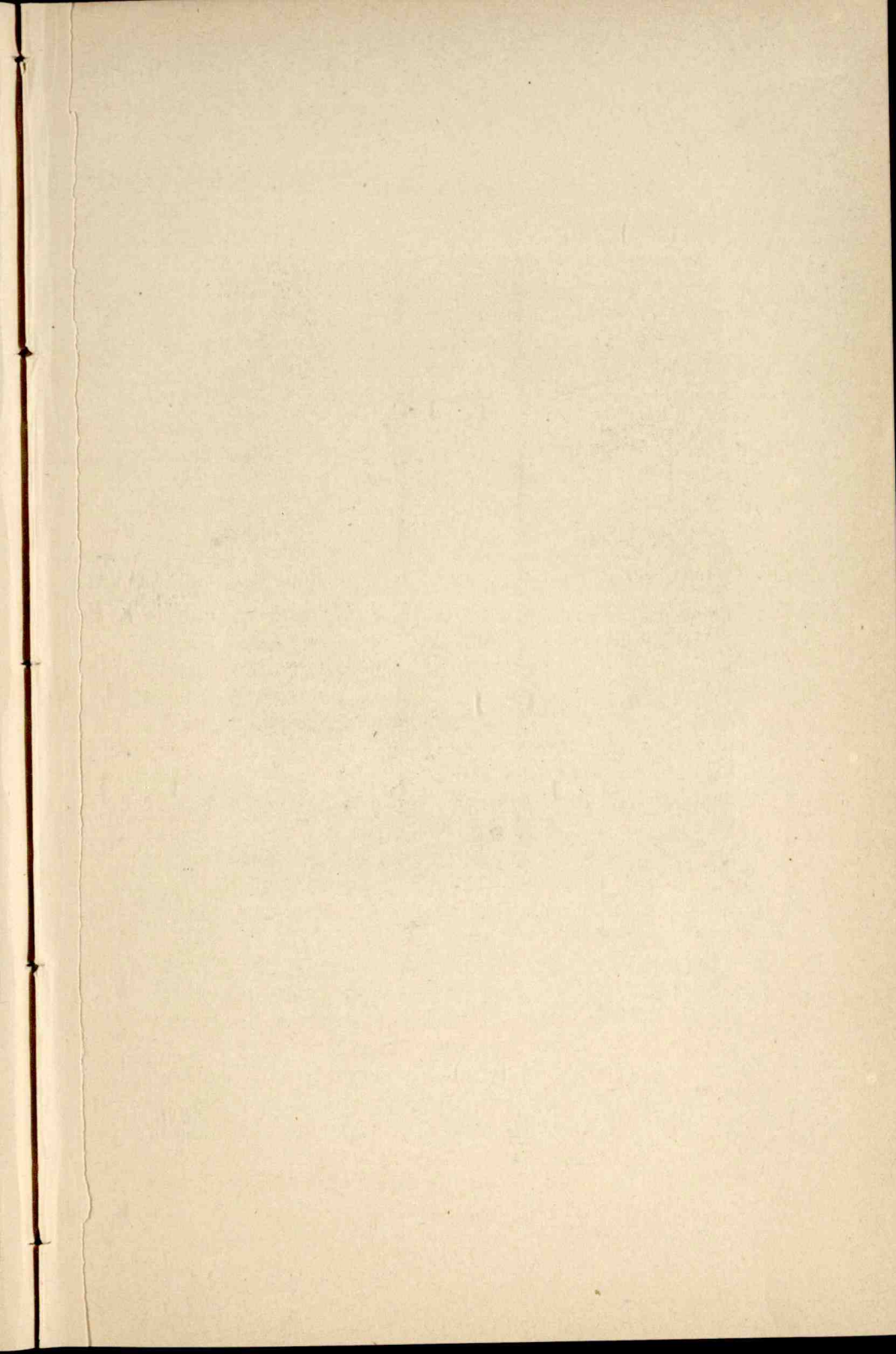
EARLE, ALIAS WILLIS.

Ralph Earle, the second son, was the ancestor of that branch of the Earles which inherited, by a somewhat complicated connection, the estates of the Willis family, and assumed their name in 1788. He was Mayor of the borough in 1769, and is constantly mentioned in connection with its affairs, being spoken of as "one of the leading merchants "of his day." Previously to his inheriting the property alluded to, he lived in School Lane, close to St. Peter's Church. Picton says in his *Memorials of Liverpool* (vol. ii, p. 147), "The first house "erected on the east side of Pool Brook, was at "the S.E. corner of School Lane and Manesty's "Lane by a Mr. Dansie in 1680. It was a "tolerably large mansion, with a recessed forecourt "surrounded by a low wall. . . This house was "occupied at different periods by Mr. Ralph Earle, "Mayor in 1769."

In the Municipal Lease Book there is a lease for three lives granted to Mr. Ralph Earle, 27th March, 1765, for this same house; and two other leases also, dated 1760, for a long frontage to the Mersey, near the Salthouse Dock, where he evidently carried on his business, which was chiefly in the timber trade, though he owned ships and had, as usual, very various cargoes, as we find by the *Liverpool Advertiser* of the time.

In politics Mr. Ralph Earle was, unlike his father, a Whig, and seems to have taken a good deal of interest in Parliamentary matters, consistently supporting that party.

He married Dorothy, the second daughter of Richard Aldersey, Esq., one of the customers of the dues of the port, and a connection of the Alderseys of Cheshire. By her he had two sons, Richard, his heir, who changed his name, and





Mary Morf

Willis (who retained the surname of Earle). The latter was a good deal heard of in Liverpool at the commencement of this century, as a strong supporter of the rights of the freemen of the town. He was a writer of pamphlets, some of which, on agriculture and local topics, are still extant. Mr. Ralph Earle died in 1790.*

EARLE OF LEGHORN.

Thomas Earle, the third son of John Earle, was born 20th June, 1719. Of the early years of his life I know very little; but it is evident they were not spent in idleness, for we find him in 1755 a prosperous merchant, and the head of a large house of business which he himself by his own energy must have principally created.

In 1754, according to his settlement dated June 8th, he married Mary, only daughter and heiress of Adam Mort of Wharton Hall, co. Lancaster, Esq.,† whose family was connected with the Claytons, the Leighs of Oughttrington, and the Hardmans.

Concerning the last-named family, it may be interesting to touch upon their connection with the Earles and somewhat curious history. Two brothers, John and James Hardman of Rochdale, in 1732 purchased a property near Liverpool, called Allerton Hall, from Richard Percival. John Hardman resided at the Hall; he married Jane, daughter of John Cockshutt (Mayor of Liverpool), was M.P. for Liverpool in 1754, and died without issue December of the following year. (*Trans. Hist. Soc.*, vol. viii, p. 183.) James continued at Rochdale, where he died, and was buried 22nd November, 1759, leaving a widow who survived him a great many years. (Gregson's *Fragments*; and see also vol. i, p. 65, of *Trans. Hist. Soc.*) This lady, Jane

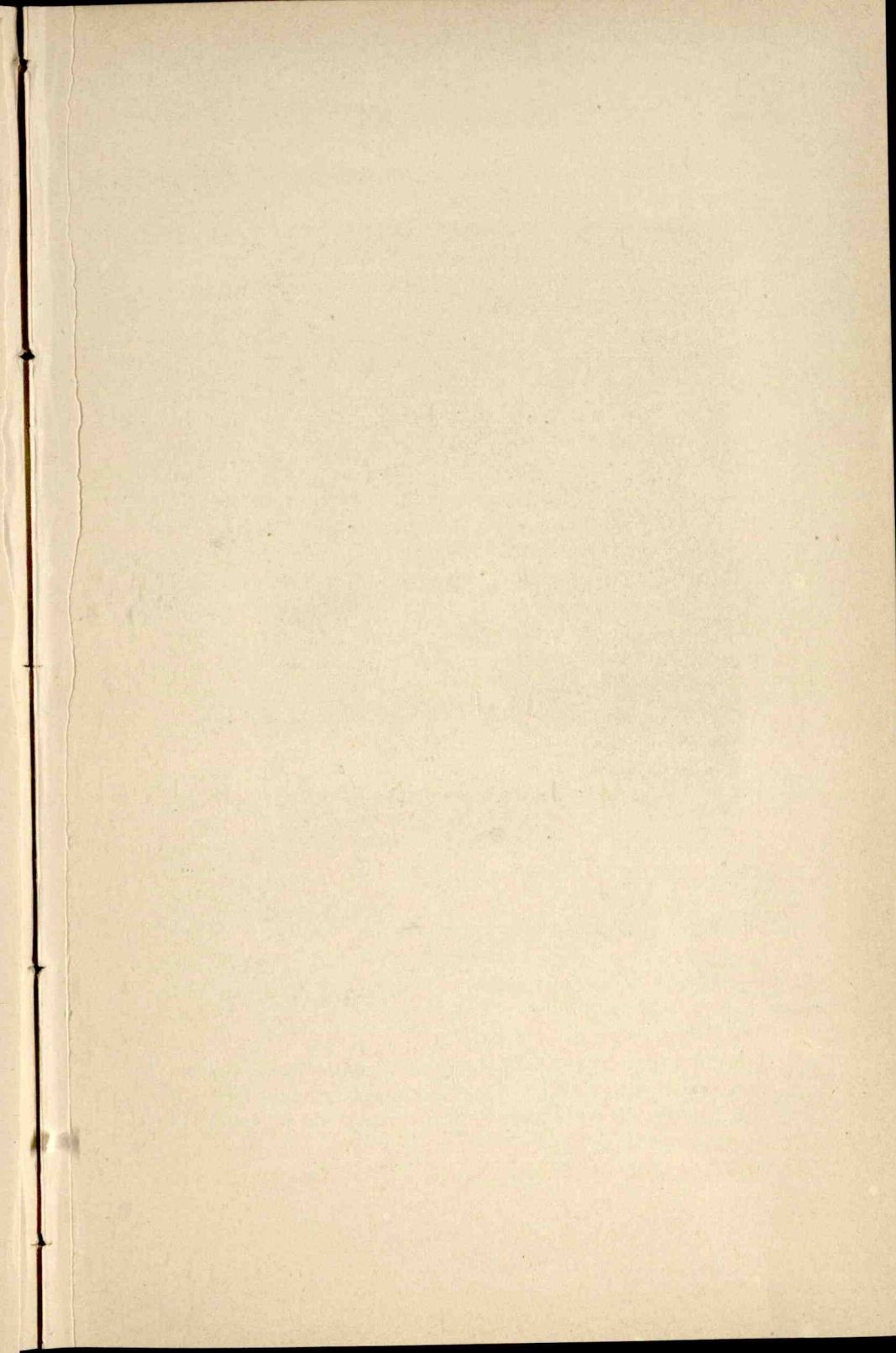
* See Appendix, Willis Family.

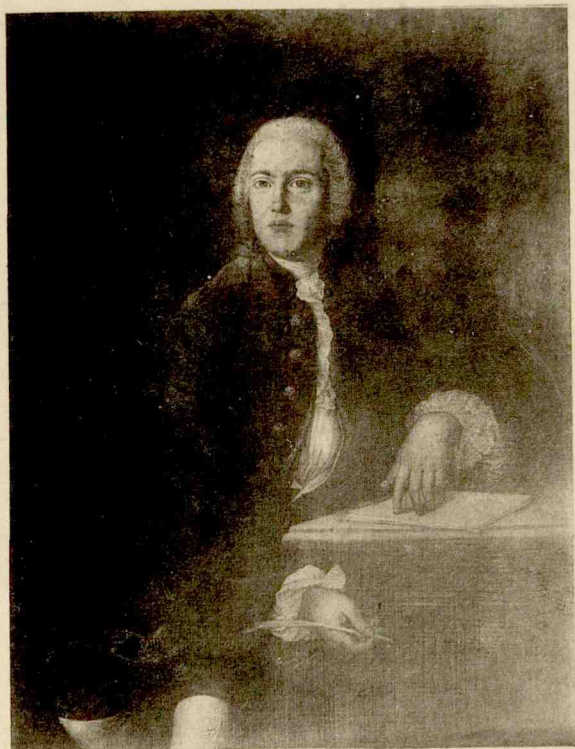
* See Appendix, Mort Family.

Hardman, was a daughter of George Leigh of Oughtrington, co. Chester, by his second marriage, and half sister to Martha Leigh, wife of Adam Mort of Wharton Hall. She was therefore half aunt to Mary Mort, who married Thomas Earle.

Mrs. James Hardman lived to a great age, dying in 1795, aged 93, having survived all her children, who died young. After her husband's death she moved to Allerton, where she lived a life well worthy of the high eulogium given to her by William Roscoe (Gregson's *Fragments of Lancashire*), and very far from that career of fraud and villany which, many years after her death, it pleased certain ill-advised persons to ascribe to her. The Manor of Allerton was long the subject of dispute and litigation among the different connections of the Hardmans, owing to the failure of Mrs. Hardman's issue, and no further provision being made by her husband's Will for such a contingency. Many and various claimants to it, and to the estate of Aigburth Hall, which also belonged to the brothers Hardman, cropped up from time to time. The properties were eventually variously divided up and bought by a number of purchasers, among whom were Mr. Pattison Ellames, Mr. Jacob Fletcher, Sir Hardman Earle and others; but in spite of long years and change of ownership, many attacks were still made upon the estate, until not many years ago a new Parliamentary Title was granted to the then holders of the Hall.

The estate has now increased in value, and what was originally sold to the Hardmans by Richard Percival for £7700, has been said to be worth a million and a half sterling to-day. Lately the attractions of so much property, and possibly a craving for the notoriety inseparable from a *cause célèbre*, have once more proved too great for





Thomas Carly

Livorno 1761—

the reason of yet another claimant, and some wonderful stories of fraud, treachery, robberies, and even murder, have been recently adduced, to shew that the estate is still kept from its rightful heirs.

But into this romance I need not go further than to add that a communication has recently been read before the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, by Lieut.-Colonel Fishwick, F.S.A., of Rochdale, concerning the Hardman family and a certain collection of Hardman papers and memoranda collected by one James Hardman, a claimant to the Allerton estate. These papers contain much matter and some pedigrees bearing more or less upon the case, and they are bound in a folio volume and deposited in the Rochdale Public Library. Particulars of the Hardman descent and their case will also be more fully found in the Chancery Pleadings, No. 329, 1800/24, *Ellames v. Hardman*. Mrs. Jane Hardman was long a great friend of her half niece, Mrs. Thomas Earle, and her husband, who frequently stayed at Allerton Hall; but the Hardmans were no blood relations of the Earles, and their sole connection was through this Jane Leigh, the wife of James Hardman. The fact of Sir Hardman Earle's purchase of part of the Allerton property was a coincidence; it was not his inheritance.

But I am anticipating, and must revert to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Earle.

Thomas Earle was for some years resident at the Italian port of Leghorn, where he established a house of business, partly in connection with his brothers in Liverpool, and sent home to them all the products of Italy, in his and their ships. The chief trade seems to have been in coffees, oil, pimento, hides, and marble; the last named the fine white marble, for sculpture and for ornamental

purposes, the first of which ever imported to Liverpool was sent by Mr. Earle.*

There was a branch of this Italian house at Genoa, and Mr. Earle took in as partners two brothers named Hodgson and a certain John Denham, who was a voluminous correspondent, and has left us a good deal of information in his letters concerning this foreign trade. The Hodgsons were of the family of Hodgson of Minshull Vernon, whose pedigree, on an old roll by Francis Bassano of Chester, deputy to Peter Le Neve, Norroy King of Arms, is in the possession of Sir Thomas Earle. I have not seen it elsewhere, and I may add for any that may be interested in this family, which, I gather, was a large one in this neighbourhood a hundred years ago, and which is frequently mentioned in local registers, that there are lying with the pedigree sundry Wills and MSS. connected with it. By his wife Mary Mort, Thomas Earle had a son Adam, who died young at Leghorn, in 1760; and two daughters—Maria, born 16th August, 1761, and Elizabeth Jane, born 14th February, 1764, both at Leghorn. He remained with his family in Italy until 1766, and, from the correspondence of John Denham, it is evident his business was carried on with much enterprise and success. Returning home, he and his wife stayed for some months with Mrs. Hardman, at Allerton Hall, and in 1767 moved into a house, which for many years belonged to the family, in Hanover Street, and which is still standing, a large building with two projecting wings, formerly the residence of Mr. John Blackburne, brother of Mr. Thomas Blackburne, who married the heiress of Hale. It is now the Hanover Hotel.

At this period Hanover Street was, to use the words of the late Sir James Picton, "the habitat of

* *Liverpool Table Talk a Hundred Years Ago.*

“the mercantile aristocracy of the day”; and down to the end of the eighteenth century bore quite a rural character. Immediately beyond it stretched the fields and heath of the old Liverpool common, and little interrupted towards the west the beautiful prospect of the river Mersey. Agreeable as Hanover Street was 120 years ago, Mr. Earle seems to have sighed often enough for Italian skies, and his old home at Leghorn. He lived on, however, at Liverpool, and took active part in its affairs, entering the Council in 1770, and being elected bailiff the following year. During the severe wars of 1775-81, against America, Spain, and France, his shipping was much harassed by the numerous privateers of the enemy, and the commerce of Liverpool at this period suffered much. The perils incurred, however, do not seem to have dismayed Mr. Earle, and his letter-books recount numerous adventures and enterprises, and are full of suggestions for the employment of the capital of the house in Italy and at home. “To the Messrs. “Earle,” in fact, it was humorously said—according to that veracious authority *Liverpool Table Talk a Hundred Years Ago*—“everything arriving from “the coasts of the Mediterranean, from the Pillars “of Hercules to the Pillar of Pompey, used to be “consigned; and to them every foreigner, if he “could not speak English, had a letter of introduction.”

Mr. Thomas Earle, whom we may style “of “Leghorn” to distinguish him from others of the same name, died on the 18th April, 1781, and his Will is at Lancaster. His wife did not long survive him; her Will is dated 22nd February, 1783; the year following she was living in London with her daughters, seemingly recovering from a severe illness, but she died a few months later, and there is a monument over a family vault in St. Nicholas’

Church in Liverpool, inscribed "Mary, widow of "Thomas Earle, who died 29th January, 1785." Her daughters, and co-heiresses, inherited their father's fortune and with it the estates and effects of their maternal grandfather, Adam Mort of Wharton Hall. These, as stated in their mother's marriage settlement, comprised several farms and tenements, and a residence entitled Wharton Hall, all in the townships of Pennington, Hulton, Little Hulton, and Shakerley, and the parishes of Leigh, and Dean, co. Lancaster; formerly in the occupation of Nathan Mort, her grandfather, and of Robert, father of the said Nathan Mort. As the sole heiress of her father, Mary Mort, at the time of her marriage, conveyed these to her trustees, John Mort of Chewbent, her uncle, and John Hardman of Allerton, for the benefit of herself and her heirs, including also certain property left to her by her maternal grandfather, George Leigh of Oughttrington, Esq. This latter was near, or adjoining the Mort estate, and comprised some messuages and lands situated in West Leigh in the parish of Leigh, and other parcels of land in Pennington in the same parish. At the time of her signing this deed, Mary Mort is stated to be 28 years of age, and was therefore born in 1726.

Her eldest daughter, Maria, married her cousin, Thomas Earle, and of her I shall speak further presently.

Jane Elizabeth, the second daughter, married Richard Gwilym of Bewsey Hall, near Warrington, High Sheriff in 1796, and had issue, of whom some account is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1818, p. 187; in the *Chetham Soc. Pub.*, vol. lxxii., p. 286; and in Beamont's *Annals of Warrington*, p. 150. Mrs. Gwilym's eldest daughter married the Rev. Robert Rawstorne of Penwortham, afterwards Rector of Warrington; another

married Le Gendre Starkie, Esq., of Huntroyd; and her only son Richard Gwilym was Vicar of Ulverstone and Rural Dean for many years.

EARLE OF WEST DERBY.

We have yet to notice the fourth and youngest son of Mr. John Earle, the Mayor of Liverpool in 1709.

William Earle, termed of West Derby—for it was there he lived—was born in 1721, and like his brothers became a merchant. His name does not appear so frequently or so prominently in the town's history as theirs, and we gather little from local records as to his position and associations. He appears, however, to have been engaged extensively in foreign commerce, and to have had the same interests and views as his brother Ralph; for in 1759, whilst Thomas Earle was at Leghorn, these two brothers appear mentioned together in one or two cases; and on one occasion they are found among a number of other merchants protesting against the list of their ships being published as they went in and out of port, "having," as they said, "too much reason to believe that it had been "of very bad consequence to them this war." This is an extract from Williamson's *Liverpool Advertiser*, which fifteen years later mentions the election of William Earle as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

He seems to have had a number of ships, which traded to Italy and the Mediterranean, to the "windward coast of Africa," to Barbadoes and Virginia, and the West Indies generally; and to have had much miscellaneous traffic with the natives,—dealing not a little in the slave trade, which was then one of the most important of foreign enterprises, and considered so small a question of humanity. One of his old letter-books, which dates from 1760 to the end of 1761, gives

us an idea of his ventures, and mentions in many places the risks and great dangers to which merchants were in those days subject. On one occasion he writes that his luck is very bad: that he has lost two of his capital ships—the *Lyme* and the *Chesterfield*, both taken by the French; on another that he has great reason for congratulation, as his last cargo of 380 slaves to Maryland have realized £20 apiece. “The *Industry* has sailed for Antigua.” “The *Thomas and Mary* is fitting-out for Leghorn,” and “the *Calypto*, with Captain Copeland (his “brother-in-law), has arrived on the coast, after “beating-off a privateer of 14 guns in a very gallant “manner.” So he writes to his various correspondents, amongst whom we find Messrs. Earle and Hodgson of Leghorn, and Mr. Ralph Earle of Liverpool.

In the *Liverpool Advertiser* of 1770, and later, there are frequent notices of the arrival of his and his brother's ships. “The *Mars*, Messrs. William “Earle and Co., with 86 hogsheads of sugar, 140 “bags of cotton, 140 bags of ginger, 5 tons of “logwood, 13 elephants' teeth, &c., from Jamaica.” “The *Bartholomew*, Mr. Ralph Earle, a cargo of “timbers, &c.” “The *Prince Tom* and *King “Frederick*, also Mr. William Earle's.”

In April, 1760, he took a lease of buildings in Redcross Street from Sir Ellis Cunliffe, and here carried on his business; but he lived at a house which in his Will he calls “The Brick House” at West Derby, not far from Lark Hill and close to the old Derby Mill. Though considerably altered by subsequent possessors, part of this old building is still standing.

In 1753 he married Anne, daughter of Thomas and Mary Hosken, and widow of a Mr. Winstanley; who is mentioned in her husband's Will, and seems to have had two married sisters, legatees under the

Will, and described as "my sisters-in-law, Catherine "Jennings, and Elizabeth Copeland, and my niece "Ann Copeland." By this marriage there were three sons—Thomas, born 1754; Ralph, born 1756, died 1767; William, born 1757; and one daughter,

MARY, born 1758, who married RICHARD HEYWOOD, Esq., of Lark Hill, a banker, and eldest son of Mr. Arthur Heywood, the first of the well-known banking firm of Liverpool.* Her husband died, without issue, in the year 1800, but Mrs. Heywood, with the usual longevity of her family, survived him 31 years.

Mr. William Earle of West Derby died on the 28th April, 1788, aged 67, as recorded on a tablet at St. Nicholas' Church; and his Will, proved 27th December, 1790, is at Chester. In this Will, after directing a "decent and frugal interment &c. &c.", he desires "that as soon as convenient after death "a value shall be put upon all my real and "personal estates, household furniture, . . . stock, "farming utensils &c. &c. . . . and after all my "just and lawful debts are discharged, the use of "all plate, linen, or other movables I give to my "dear wife . . . and also the interest and income "of all my real and personal estates in trust to my "trustees during her life, so that nothing shall be "alienated at her death." After Mrs. Earle's death (which took place a year after), he left to his son Thomas "his real estates and house at "Derby, comprising his residence with farm and "outbuildings, gardens and fields near Derby Mill, "the house occupied by Thomas Champion the "miller, and that called 'The Brick House' with "the fields occupied by John Tatlock . . . also "the house occupied by Peter Winstanley, next

* See *Diary of Oliver Heywood*, by Rev. Joseph Hunter. Pub. Chetham Society, vol. vii.

“adjoining to the eastward of the ‘Brick House,’
“and my seat or pew in Derby Chapel.”

The remainder of his real estate, consisting of his “house in Liverpool, with all the improvements “thereon,” and his premises in Redcross Street, he directs shall go to his son William, and also his pew in the “Church of Our Lady and St. “Nicholas.” Some minor bequests are made to his sister, the Honourable Mrs. Stanley, to his brother Ralph, and to the children of his brother Thomas.

Closing the history of the generation succeeding John Earle, and taking leave of the eldest branch, now represented by the Willises of Halsnead, we proceed with the descendants of the younger sons, Thomas Earle of Leghorn, and William of West Derby.

I. **María Earle**, the elder daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Earle of Leghorn, married her cousin, **Thomas Earle**, eldest son of William Earle of West Derby, and we may therefore consider their history united.

II. **William Earle**, the second surviving son of William Earle of West Derby, also married a cousin, on his mother’s side—Anne, daughter of John Copland of Liverpool. To clear the ground for the senior branch, I will take him and his family first.

EARLE OF EVERTON.

He was born in 1760, and joined his father’s house of business, of which he and his elder brother were made partners at an early age. When he was but 21, the business of his uncle, at the death of Mr. Thomas Earle of Leghorn, was amalgamated with his father’s, and their offices centred in Hanover Street; the old premises and warehouses in Redcross Street were also retained, and with

the combined business of the two earlier houses, their trade and connections became exceedingly prosperous.

He married in 1797 Anne Copland, whose mother was, I gather, that Elizabeth Copeland who is mentioned in the Will of William Earle of West Derby as the sister of his wife. To this lady there is a monument on the north wall of the chancel of St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool—a tablet with the following inscription:—

“Sacred to the memory of
Anne, the wife of William Earle,
who has erected this monument in testimony
of that innate goodness and those virtues
which endeared her to her family, to her connections,
and to society.
She died on the 1st May, 1819,
aged 50.”

Above is a very well-executed sculptured figure of an angel kneeling, weeping, over a monumental urn; and the name of John Gibson, R.A., the celebrated sculptor, is in the corner.

John Gibson was a great friend of the Earle family, to whom he owed something in his early life. In a letter to Mrs. Lawrence of Mossley Hill—dated the 27th September, 1831, and written from Rome—he says of this monument: “I have just finished one in marble, to go to Liverpool, to the memory of Mrs. Earle. For this monument Canova has given me great praise; he says that the figure, which is an angel, is full of feeling and grace.”

Mr. William Earle did not live in the house in Liverpool left him by his father, but purchased a property on the Netherfield Road at Everton from Mr. G. Slater; “upon which”—says Robert Syers, the historian of Everton in 1830—“a stately mansion had been erected, which has long been the residence of William Earle, Esq., one of the

“oldest standing of the most eminent merchants of “Liverpool”; and here he tells us that Mr. Earle lived the earlier part of his life—very jealous “of “everything that interfered with the rural seclusion “that then characterized Everton, and ever ready “on high occasions to come forward and aid in his “township’s concerns.”

William Earle of Everton was a Magistrate and a Deputy Lieutenant, and for some time Colonel of the Liverpool Fusiliers, a regiment raised in 1803 for the defence of the coast, during the panic occasioned by the great armaments of the French.

In politics he was a Whig, but does not seem to have voted altogether consistently, for in the election of 1806 he gave one vote for the party following Pitt, and the other for Roscoe, the Whig. He was deputed on this occasion to meet Sir Isaac Coffin, and endeavour to persuade him to stand for the Whigs.

“So straight they sent brave Colonel Earle,
A man of manners silky,
The gallant Admiral to greet
In accents smooth and milky.

He was, however, unsuccessful, and his “silky “manners” received considerable chaff from the independent Tories throughout the exciting time of the contest. A large placard was posted in the town by that party, advertising a great sale after the election, the different lots offered being the leaders of the opposite faction. Colonel Earle figures amusingly as follows:—

“TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

“At 2 o’clock, at Chapel Steps, Paradise St.

“Lot. V. That excellent horse ‘Willyo’, sometimes used as a charger, marked on the quarter and tail nicked. He is very tender mouthed, and seems remarkably docile, an astonishing leaper, and matchable with any filly in the kingdom.”

In 1818 he proposed the Earl of Sefton (then only an Irish Peer) as Whig member for Liverpool; but by this time the Conservative element had become too strong for his party in the borough, and he was rejected. After this I find no mention of his name in political matters.

He lived to the age of 79, and died the 10th January, 1839, at Rome, where for a number of years before his death he had usually lived in the winter for his health, and where his grave is to be found now in the beautiful Protestant cemetery near the Porta S. Paolo, dear to all Englishmen as the resting place of Keats and Shelley.

William Earle of Everton had only one son, Charles, born 1798, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann Mary.

- I. CHARLES EARLE, who was educated at Eton, which he left in 1815, married Emily, daughter of James Primrose Maxwell, Esq., of Tubbendence, co. Kent, and by her had five sons and one daughter (for whom see Burke's *Baronetage*). He never entered any profession, and devoted much of his life to sport. He was fond of hunting and a capital shot, and throughout his life a great patron of cricket. He died at the age of 83, in 1881.
- I. Elizabeth married Joseph Ashton, Esq., of Woolton Hall, eldest son of Nicholas Ashton, Esq., by his second wife, and brother of Ellis Ashton of Huyton and Henry Ashton of Woolton Wood. The last named married Elizabeth, sister of William Fletcher, Esq., of Allerton.
- II. Ann Mary married Colonel Caldwell, of H.M. Bengal Army, and died in 1871. They lived chiefly in Italy, and are buried at the English cemetery in Rome.

III.

EARLE OF SPEKELANDS.

Thomas Earle, eldest son of William Earle of West Derby, was born in 1754, and was sent when 11 years of age to the old-established Manchester Grammar School, where we find his entry registered, together with his brother Ralph's, on the 14th January, 1765. In 1775-6 he travelled abroad, visited Venice and other places in Italy, and some two years later returned home, took up his freedom (28th April, 1779), and was designated a merchant, "being duly sworn and enrolled as a free Burgess "on Birthright."

At the age of 27, and though his father was still alive, he was managing the affairs of the house in Hanover Street, and also of that of his uncle at Leghorn. Early in August, 1785, he became engaged to his cousin Maria, whom, on the 20th April following, he married, both her parents then being dead.

Two years later he became Mayor of Liverpool, at the age of 33.

He and his brother William, as merchants and shipowners, still maintained the premises in Hanover Street, which, indeed, remained the family house of business until well into the present century; but they were not content merely to follow on the lines of their ancestors, but branched into several others. They founded a firm styled Earles and Molyneux, iron merchants; another Earles and Carter, the forerunner of the present Messrs. Earles and King, and had other extensive interests in the oil, silk, and sugar trades.

Thomas Earle was an active and zealous magistrate and deputy lieutenant, and during the



Tho: Earle

THOMAS EARLE, ESQ., OF SPEKELANDS.



Mary Earle

MARY, WIFE OF THOMAS EARLE, ESQ., OF SPEKELANDS.

stirring times of the close of last century appears an energetic promoter of the welfare of his native town. When in 1796 Napoleon's plans of invasion threatened the safety of this country, Liverpool, among the first of the seaports, took up the cry for defence, and among the leaders of the organization that followed, Thomas Earle, with Mr. Dawson, Sir Joseph Birch, Bart., Mr. Jonas Bold, Sir George Dunbar, Bart., and others, took a prominent part. They enrolled a corps of 1000 Volunteers, who immediately offered themselves, and Mr. Earle became their major. He appears to have kept this command until, in 1802, at the Peace of Amiens, the force was disbanded, having increased largely in numbers, and being over 2000 strong. And when, in 1803, war broke out again with France, and Bonaparte's "Boulogne Army" once more prepared for attack, Liverpool again displayed the most enthusiastic patriotism, and a great meeting to carry out the provisions of the National Defence Act was held, at which Lieut.-Col. Thomas Earle was unanimously called to the chair, and under his command two new regiments of Volunteers were formed, one of which for several years he led. Of the strength of this force I have no record; it was probably a large one, for we read that throughout England over 300,000 men were enrolled.

At this period the population of Liverpool had increased to 77,000, and the town no longer retained the pleasant and salubrious character for which the once "little creek of Leverpoole" was famed. Thomas Earle, probably for this reason, now removed from his residence in Hanover Street, and went further into the country. In 1798 he purchased from Mr. Wakefield a property on the Smetham (now Smithdown) Lane, situated in the manor of Toxteth, and some 88 acres in extent. This property, which is now mostly sold and built

over, was bounded on the south by the Toxteth Brook, which divided it from the estate of the Gascoignes; and on the east by Mr. Durning's and Mr. John Shaw Leigh's land. It ran at the north-east corner up to the Wavertree Lane, and on the north parallel about with the present Tunnel Road. Smetham Lane bounded it on the west, with the exception of one field on the other side of the lane (now the site of Whittier, Greenleaf and Cullen Streets).

After residing for a short time at Brookfarm, an old house then on the estate, Mr. Earle erected, on a part of it called the Spekelands, a large house which he so named, a big square building of white stone, which was only pulled down in 1882, and which commanded fine views of the river and country round; where he lived until his death. Standing high, the land from this point slopes gradually down to the Mersey across the once wild moss land of the Toxteth Park, and with the splendid background of the Cheshire hills and Welsh mountains in the distance, the prospect must in those days have been worthy of the admiration with which the old topographers describe it. The site of Spekelands is now rapidly becoming covered with shops and villas.

Mr. Thomas Earle was a Whig in politics, though by no means one of that extreme party then forming under the Radical banner. He took much interest in elections, and was on more than one occasion asked to represent the borough in Parliament. He gave instead his support to his friend William Roscoe, whom in 1806 the electors brought in at the head of the poll in spite of the effort of the old Corporation party and their candidates, General Tarleton and Mr. Gascoyne. In the election of 1812, Thomas Earle proposed Mr. Creevey, but he was not elected; and after that,

the Tories coming into power, he seems to have taken no active part in politics.

On the 9th July, 1822, he died at the age of 68, and was buried at Walton Church, in a family vault there. A tablet is erected to his memory in the chancel of St. Peter's Church in Liverpool, giving a long eulogium on his life and character; and above it is a figure of Justice protecting Innocence, executed by John Gibson, R.A. Mrs. Earle survived her husband many years, living at Spekelands till the 7th September, 1849, when she died, aged 88.

Thomas Earle of Spekelands had five sons and three daughters.

I. **William Earle**, the eldest, was born 7th February, 1787, and was educated at Mr. Gretton's Cheshire school at Audlem (some little distance from Nantwich), which was evidently a fashionable seat of learning, though the terms the boys paid were, according to our modern ideas, exceedingly moderate. The terms were "25 guineas a year and no entrance fee," and this included washing until a boy was ten years old, and after that he was to pay 8s. a quarter; "if a boy has a bed to himself he pays 5 guineas a year more; if a room and a bed, 10 guineas as entrance fee, which clears him for the time he stays at school." Here he met as fellow-boarders two of Sir Thomas Broughton's sons, young Davenport of Capesthorpe, two of Mr. Hill's sons, and one of Sir John Chetwode's—the latter not six years old (1794). Thence he went to Charterhouse, and travelled a great deal abroad.

He became a merchant, like his forefathers, and though he was often much away from home, his connection with Liverpool was never severed: in all commercial, political, and social matters he had much to do with its affairs. He was elected to the

Council in 1817, at the age of thirty, was Bailiff in 1824, and Mayor—the first Mayor after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, in 1836.

To him in great measure was due the passing of the Rivington Pike Water Scheme, which was long opposed by the ratepayers of Liverpool, and afterwards proved so great a benefit to the town. A liberal in politics, he was well known as a hard hitter at election time, and especially renowned for his caustic wit and power of repartee, being “quick and tart in reply,” as one of his biographers says, “and so much so that the man must be clever who does not come off second best in a contest with him.”

In a little book, on Liverpool celebrities, published anonymously many years ago, we find an account of Mr. William Earle’s character, which it will be interesting to repeat:—

“Mr. Earle”, says the memoir, “is a man of great ability, remarkable acuteness wit, observation, and taste. He has had the advantage of a good education, is a good linguist, and his knowledge of European languages has been much improved by his many continental tours. Nature has not been bountiful to Mr. Earle in one respect, but she has been liberal in others. With an apparently delicate and fragile frame she has united a keen and discriminating mind, a raciness of voice and manner that is inimitable, and courage the most undaunted. There is a degree of independence about him that spares neither friend or foe, and he cares little for public opinion so long as he thinks he is doing right. . . . He is naturally warm and sensitive and occasionally irritable, but this is a passing emotion, and no bitterness rankles behind. He is generally amusing in his remarks, hits right and left, and whether it be Alderman Parker for his numerous blunderings, Mr. Picton for his many orations, or Mr. Hornby for his yielding temperament, each comes in for an equal share of castigation. It has often been said we see only a part of Mr. Earle in public and that not the best part, because his eccentricity and love of mischief hide the real generosity of the man; and his carelessness of appearances and his severity of language rather detract from that high-minded tone which is nevertheless natural to him. . . . There is a style about him which stamps him as of no common

“sort, and though he is now advanced in years his mental activity is remarkable. . . . His honesty and inflexibility of purpose, independence of character and comprehensiveness of information those who know him best are the most willing to acknowledge.”

In 1829 (15th July) Mr. Earle married Anne, sixth daughter of Joseph Bradish, Esq., of Kilkenny, and built himself a large house in Abercromby Square, at the corner of Oxford Street, where he lived. He continued the family business in Hanover Street with Mr. Thomas Leathom, and subsequently his nephews, the present Sir Thomas Earle and the late Mr. William Langton, as partners.

He was deputy lieutenant, and magistrate for the county and the borough.

Mr. William Earle left no issue. His wife died on the 15th August, 1855, of cholera, at Munich, where she was buried; and he survived her till 26th September, 1864, when he died in the 78th year of his age, and was buried at Walton. There is a monument there to his memory, in the parish church.

II. THOMAS, the second son, was born 29th June, 1788, and died young on 28th January, 1806, whilst at school at Aberdeen. (*Gentleman's Magazine*.)

III. JOHN died an infant, 15th March, 1791.

EARLE OF ALLERTON TOWER.

IV. **Hardman Earle**, afterwards Sir Hardman Earle, Baronet, fourth son of Mr. Thomas Earle of Spekelands, was born 11th July, 1792, and went to a school near Warrington—a celebrated school in its day—kept by a Mr. Lloyd, where the present Lord Winmarleigh and other since notable men were among his schoolfellows. Thence he went to Charterhouse, still at that time situated in Charter

House Square in London, and under the head-mastership of Dr. Raine.

His brother William being already in the old house of the Earles, he joined the late Mr. Nicholas Salisbury of Aigburth and Mr. J. H. Turner, as a broker in Liverpool, and was for a long time their acting manager and partner. He became in 1822 partner also with his brother William, in the house of Earles & Carter—afterwards Earles & King—the seed-crushing business founded in the year 1800 as a branch of his father's and uncle's house.

He was a man of ceaseless energy, and his business life was active and untiring; but over and above his pursuit of this he had numerous other general occupations. Liverpool knew him as a leading spirit in her politics, as an ardent supporter of her institutions, and as a willing worker for her charities and her trusts. Though not so eager an exponent of his opinions as his brother William, he took a keen interest in all that affected the community around him, and earnestly watched its progress and forwarded its reforms.

Liverpool may claim no small share in many of the great movements which have revolutionized society in the last sixty years; but chief, perhaps, among these, and one of the greatest factors in her own development, may be reckoned that initiated by the invention of the railway; and it is with the railway that Sir Hardman's name is most generally associated, as one of its original supporters and pioneers. To a man of his temperament it is not surprising that the possible future of Stephenson's great discovery had especial attractions; and to this generation, who have seen its wonderful career and the changes it has effected in our daily life, his judgment and the enthusiastic support he gave it have been amply justified. There is a legend that when George Stephenson and his friends were still



Hardman Earle

SIR HARDMAN EARLE, Bart.

From a Miniature by Hargreaves.



Mary Earle

MARY, WIFE OF SIR HARDMAN EARLE, BART.

From a Miniature by Hargreaves.

struggling with many difficulties and against great opposition at the commencement of their work on the celebrated Liverpool and Manchester line, Hardman Earle—then a young man—walked out one day along the whole route from Liverpool, to judge for himself of its prospects; divining its great success, he returned home to sell all his shares in the water companies then carrying between the two towns, and invested every penny of them in the railway. He joined the board of directors of this Company, which was projected by his friend Joseph Sanders, and of which his relative Mr. Charles Lawrence was first chairman, and was present at the opening—when Mr. Huskisson was killed—in 1828. He was one of the promoters of the Grand Junction Railway, afterwards amalgamated with the London and Birmingham and the Liverpool and Manchester lines as the present London and North-Western Company; and he was upon the board of the latter Company at his death, being then the oldest railway director living.

Sir Hardman was throughout his life a consistent supporter of the Liberal party; and in 1869, at the commencement of Mr. Gladstone's first ministry, he received recognition of his services by the offer of a baronetcy, which honour was conferred upon him by the accolade of Her Majesty in June of that year.

He married on the 24th August, 1819, Mary, second daughter of William Langton, Esq., of Kirkham,* by whom he left a large family, among whom are—the present Sir Thomas Earle, Bart.; the late Major-General Earle, killed in Egypt; and Arthur Earle, Esq., of Childwall Lodge.

In spite of his various occupations, Sir Hardman frequently made time for sport; and, both as a

* Of the family of Langton of Broughton Tower, formerly Barons of Newton—now represented by Charles Langton, Esq., of Bark Hill.

young man and late in life, he was especially devoted to the "chase," which he always followed with the same zeal and ardour that distinguished his more serious pursuits. He rode straight, and was well known with the Cheshire hounds almost until his death in his eighty-fifth year.*

In 1849 Sir Hardman purchased a portion of the Allerton Hall Estate† and built Allerton Tower. There his wife died on the 26th March, 1850, in the fifty-second year of her age; and he himself 25th January, 1877, both being buried at Woolton Parish Churchyard.

His was a life of usefulness and rare activity, missed by many at its close. "We can," wrote one of his contemporaries, "say of Sir Hardman "what we can repeat of few: that he was one of "those who remained a staunch townsman to the "end; and though others with similar advantages "both of education and means transplanted themselves elsewhere, he remained firm in the place "where his ancestors were successful in building "and maintaining for themselves a name unsullied "and untarnished through many generations."

V. **Richard Earle**, Sir Hardman's youngest brother, was born April, 1796, educated at Mr. Lloyd's school and Charterhouse, and afterwards went to St. John's College, Cambridge. He became a member of the Inner Temple, was called to the Bar, and practised on the Northern Circuit until September, 1829, when he married and took up his residence in London. Soon after he was appointed private secretary to the late Earl of Derby at the Colonial Office, until the formation of Lord Anglesey's Government, when he accompanied Mr. Stanley to Dublin on his appointment as Chief Secretary for Ireland. He was subsequently made

* See Warburton's *Hunting Songs*. † See previous note on page 40.

a Poor Law Commissioner, and lived successively at Pipe Grange near Lichfield, Overstone Hall, Northampton, and at Leamington; until in 1837 he was appointed to Dublin, where he remained until 1839. He was offered in that year the management of Lord Derby's estates at Knowsley, which he accepted; and building a house at Roby, called Edenhurst, lived there until his death on 21st April, 1848. He married Margaret Langton, a sister of Sir Hardman's wife, and by her left a son, the present Lieut.-Col. Frederic William Earle of Edenhurst. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Earle are both buried at Huyton.

Thomas Earle of Spekelands had also three daughters.

I. MARY, born 6th June, 1794, married, 18th November, 1820, Sir William Plunkett DE BATHE, Bart., of County Meath (who died 10th May, 1870), and died 14th September, 1854, leaving issue, the present General Sir Henry de Bathe, &c.

II. ANNE, born 15th November, 1798, married, 24th May, 1821, Joseph LANGTON, Esq., whose sisters married Sir Hardman and Mr. Richard Earle. She died on 16th August, 1875, aged 77, and left issue, among whom were Mr. William Langton, the well-known Chairman of the Liverpool Dock Board, and the present Charles Langton, Esq., of Barkhill.

III. JANE, born 8th September, 1800, married, 4th April, 1831, George Hall LAWRENCE, Esq. (who died 15th January, 1869, *æt.* 68), and died without issue, 5th February, 1883, aged 83.

At the death of Mrs. Lawrence passed away the last of her generation, and of those that follow it is not necessary here to speak.

We should not close this sketch of the Earles without a notice of

THEIR ARMS AND CRESTS.

Grants of arms under the name of Earle are numerous at the Heralds' College. The following list (taken from Robson's *British Herald*), gives the most important:—

1. EARL (Swallowfield Place, Berks.)
Arms—Gules, three escallops within bordure engr. Argent.
Crest—Lion's head erased Or, pierced with a broken dart proper. (Borne by Timothy Hare Altabone Earl, 1824.)
2. EARLE (High Ongar, Essex).
Arms and Crest—Same as No. 1. (Borne by Rev. Henry John Earle, 1824.)
3. EARLE, ERLE (Charborough and Gillingham).
Arms—Gules, a chevron between three escallops, all within bordure engr. Argent.
Crest—Lion's head erased Or, pierced with a broken spear, point imbrued Gules. (Borne by Rev. Christopher Erle, Fellow of New College, Oxford, 1824.)
4. EARLE (Topsfield, Essex, and Craiglethorpe, Lincolnshire).
Arms—Gules, three escallops within bordure engr. Argent.
Crest—Nag's head erased Sable, maned Or.
5. EARLE (Boston, Lincolnshire).
Arms—Same as No. 4, with annulet for difference.
Crest—Same as No. 4.
6. ERLEY, EARL.
Arms—Same as No. 1.
Crest—Dolphin naiant on spear.
7. EARL.
Arms—Gules, on a chevron Argent three trefoils Sable between as many escallops in chief, and a dolphin in base, all within double tressure engrailed of the second, outer bordure Or.
Crest—Nag's head erased Sable, maned Or.
8. EARLE (Charborough).
Arms and Crest—Same as No. 3.

9. EARLE (Lincolnshire ; granted 1558) [? Craiglethorpe ; see Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*].

Arms—Gules, a fesse between three sheldrakes Argent.

Crest—Lion's head erased Or, pierced with a broken spear, point imbrued Gules.

10. ERLEY or ERLY (Cheshire).

Arms—Gules, a fesse Argent, in chief three plates.

Crest—A hand erect proper, holding a gem ring Or, a stone Gules.

11. EARLE.

Arms—Gules, on a fesse Or, three magpies proper, membered of the second.

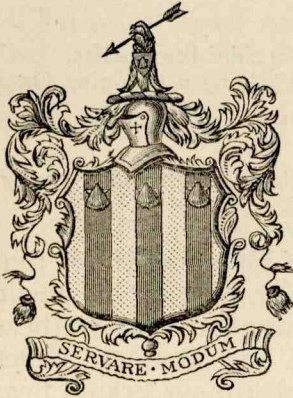
Collinson, in his *History of Somerset*, states that John de Erleigh, 8 Edward II., bore on his shield three escallops, and his descendants used these arms in a bordure, engrailed and tintured Gules and Argent. Most of the subsequent grants bear evidence of connection with this the Charborough coat.

Search at the Heralds' College reveals no grant of arms to the Earles of Warrington such as they were bearing in 1660, and recorded by the Heralds' Deputy Holme, viz., Argent, three pallets Sable.

It is unlikely they were assumed without license, at a period when the great penalties attached to unauthorised bearing of arms were severely enforced, and it is possible the grant may have perished at The Fire, which destroyed many of the college papers. The shield and crest are distinct from those of the south-country Earles : from some unknown reason its tinctures were wrongly altered by the family in the eighteenth century, and upon a window in St. Luke's Church at Liverpool (1817), the coat of Thomas Earle of Spekeldands is shewn Argent, three pallets Gules. Upon his book-plate (1790) it is a pale of ten Or and Gules, and the harpoon of the crest is altered to an arrow.

Mr. Thomas Earle's descendants adopted the

tinctures "Or, three pallets Gules," and in 1869 his grandson, Sir Hardman Earle, Bart., added three escallop shells, obtaining the following new grant:—



TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come *Albert William Woods*, Esquire, Garter Principal King of Arms, and *Walter Aston Blount*, Esquire, Norroy King of Arms of the North Parts of England from the River Trent northwards, send greeting. WHEREAS *Hardman Earle* of Allerton Tower in the Parish of Childwall, near Liverpool, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, Esquire, in the Commission of the Peace for the said County, hath represented unto The Most Noble *Henry Duke of Norfolk*, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, that on an examination of the Records of the College

of Arms he is informed that the Armorial Ensigns used by him do not appear recorded to his family, and *Her Majesty* having signified her intention to advance him to the dignity of a *Baronet* of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whereby it becomes necessary that his Armorial Ensigns should be duly enrolled in the said College, He therefore requested the favour of His Grace's Warrant for our granting and confirming the same with such alterations as may be requisite to be borne by him and his descendants and by the other descendants of his late Father *Thomas Earle* of Spekelands in the said Parish of Childwall, Merchant, deceased, according to the Laws of Arms. AND FORASMUCH as the said Earl Marshal did by Warrant under his hand and seal bearing date the Third day of November instant authorize and direct Us to grant and confirm such Armorial Ensigns accordingly KNOW YE THEREFORE that We, the said Garter and Norroy, in pursuance of His Grace's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of our several offices to each of Us respectively granted, do by these Presents grant and confirm unto the said *Hardman Earle* the Arms following: *Or, three pallets Gules, each charged with an escallop in chief of the field;* And for the Crest, *On a wreath of the colours a lion's gamb erased holding an arrow in bend sinister, the barb downwards, proper pendant by a chain gold an escocheon Gules, charged with an escallop* Or, as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted, to be borne and used for ever hereafter by him the said *Hardman*

Earle and his descendants, and by the other descendants of his said late Father Thomas Earle, deceased, with due and proper differences, according to the Laws of Arms. IN WITNESS whereof We, the said Garter and Norroy Kings of Arms, have to these Presents subscribed Our names and affixed the seals of Our several offices this Fourth day of November in the Thirty-Third year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., and in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

(S.) *Albert W. Woods*, Garter.

(S.) *Walter Aston Blount*, Norroy.

Endorsement :

Recorded in the College of Arms, London.

(S.) *Albert W. Woods.*

APPENDIX.

PARISH REGISTERS OF FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

NOTE.—These registers commence 1558. Imperfect 1642-1661.

1561.		Joane Fletcher - - - - -	Buried.
1566, March	5.	Richard Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1569, May	26.	Thomas Smythe & Margaret Earle	Married.
1569, June	3.	John Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1572, March	27.	Elizabeth Yearle - - - - -	Buried.
1585, Jan.	20.	William Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1585, Nov.	16.	William Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1589, May	1.	William Morte - - - - -	Baptized.
1592, Oct.	15.	Ales Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1592, Oct.	22.	Ales Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1593, Oct.	24.	William Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1599, April	29.	John Earle & Elizabeth Johnson -	Married.
1600, June	20.	Robert Earle fil W ^{mi} - - - - -	Baptized.
1602, Feb.	20.	Robert Burchell & Margeret Earle	Married.
1603, Dec.	2.	Ellen Earle (?) - - - - -	Baptized.
1614, June	6.	William Earle de Kingsley - - -	Buried.
1620, Jan.	18.	William Earle & Ellen Houghland	Married.

1621,	Jan.	28.	Elizabeth Earle fil. William - - -	Baptized.
1623,	Dec.	11.	Ellen Earle, widow - - - - -	Buried.
1624,	April	4.	Anne Earle, fil. William - - - -	Baptized.
1627,	April	8.	William Earle, fil. Willmi de Kingsley	Baptized.
1629,	Feb.	7.	Hellen Earle de Norley - - - -	Baptized.
1630,	Nov.	19.	Marg ^t Rabone fil. Rabone - - - -	Buried.
1632,	Feb.	10.	John Earle fil. Willmi - - - -	Baptized.
1636,	June	2.	Robert Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1642,	March	30.	Ellen Earle uxor Willm. - - - -	Buried.
1648,	July	23.	A child of Willm. Earle - - - -	Buried.
1653,	Sept.	12.	Anne, wife of Rich ^d Janion de Newton	Buried.
1653,	Nov.	7.	Anne Earle de Kingsley - - - -	Buried.
1653,	Dec.	10.	Rich ^d Janion the Elder of Newtouns	Buried.
1653,	Dec.	20.	Rich ^d , son of Ralphe Janion of Newton - - - - -	Baptized.
1657,	Feb.	19.	A child of Willm. Earle of Kingsley	Buried.
1659,	Jan.	28.	Robert Earle of Kingsley - - -	Buried.
1661,	Oct.	25.	Marie, fil. Willm. Earle de Kingsley	Baptized.
1662,	Sept.	7.	John Earle & Alice Ince de Alna -	Married.
1664.			James Earle fil. Gulielmi - - -	Baptized.
1668,	Sept.	7.	William Earle of Kingsley-hurst -	Buried.

THE RUNCORN CHURCH REGISTERS.

NOTE.—These registers commence in 1567; one page only, dated 1550, being extant of earlier date. The following entries occur in 1585-1648.

1585.			— Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1601-4	(?)	15 Sept.	Johes Earle & Margaret Fletcher	Married.
1610.			Helen, dau. of John Earle - - -	Baptized.
1614,		28 June.	Gilbert (?) Earle - - - - -	Baptized.
1615,		28 Feb.	Robert Earle & Alicia Burrows	Married.
1619,		28 March.	Robert Bropin (?) & Ales. Earle	Married.
1619,		28 Feb.	Richard, son of John Earle - -	Baptized.
1623,		4 Feb.	John Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1626,		2 March.	John, son of Robert Earle - - -	Baptized.
1627,		30 Sept.	Alicia, dau. of Robert Earle - -	Baptized.
1626,		11 Jan.	Thomas Earle of Halton - - -	Buried.
1629,		15 March.	Robert, son of Robert Earle - -	Baptized.
1629,		13 April.	Margargia Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1629,		9 July.	Maria, dau. of Robert Earle - -	Buried.
1629,		16 July.	Agnes Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1632.			Eliz. Earle of Halton - - - -	Baptized.

1633,	18 Aug.	Eliz. dau. of Robert Earle de Stockham - - - - -	Baptized.
1634,	3 Oct.	William Earle de Halton - - -	Buried.
1643,	1 Jan.	John Earle de Stockham - - -	Buried.
1643,	24 Feb.	Robert Earle de Stockham - -	Buried.
1648,	9 May.	—? child of John Maliguy Earle	Baptized.

PARISH REGISTERS OF DARESBURY, Co. LANCASTER.

1608, Jan.	5.	— Coppocke of Cruet Lanes, and Margery Earle of Norton -	Married.
1608, Dec.	22.	Robert, son of Robert Earle of Norton - - - - -	Baptized.
1612, Feb.	12.	William Earle and Margery Wood- ward (by license, dispensation to Vicar of Frodsham) - - -	Married.
1612, April	2.	Elina, dau. of Robert Earle of Moss-side - - - - -	Baptized.
1622, Feb.	22.	William Earle of Moss-side - - -	Baptized.
1632, July	25.	Elizabeth Earle of Halton - - -	Baptized.
1668, Nov.	—.	Thomas Earle and Margreta Pike-	Married.
1669, Sept.	12.	John, son of Thomas Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Baptized.
1671, March	22.	Elizabeth, dau. of Thos. Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Buried.
1672, Sept.	15.	Robert, son of Thos. Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Baptized.
1675, Feb.	14.	Thomas Earle senior of Keignick-	Buried.
1676, May	12.	Thomas, son of Thomas Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Buried.
1678, Jan.	26.	Alitia, dau. of Thomas Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Buried.
1678, Nov.	8.	Maria, wife of Thomas Earle - -	Buried.
1680, July	31.	Thomas, son of Thomas Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Baptized.
1682, Jan.	27.	John, son of Thomas Earle of Keignick - - - - -	Buried.
1700, Sept.	1	Robert Hall of Keignick and Esther Hall of Appleton - -	Married.

(For these extracts from the Runcorn and Daresbury Registers
I am indebted to my brother Hardman Earle.)

PARISH REGISTERS OF WARRINGTON,
COMMENCING 1625.

B.R. = Bishop's Registry.

1625,	Nov. 20.	John, son of Gregory Earle	-	Baptized.
1625-6,	March 9.	John, son of do. do.	-	Buried.
1626-7,	Feb. 20.	John, son of do. do.	-	Baptized.
1632,	March-	Peter, son of do. do.	-	Baptized.
1632,	Nov. -	Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Earle	- - - - -	Baptized.
1633,	March-	Adam, son of Gregory Earle	-	Christened.
1634,	June -	Adam, son of do. do.	-	Buried.
1636,	Oct. 10.	Katherine, wife of John Earle	-	Buried.
1636,	Nov. 28.	Edward, son of John Earle	-	Buried (B.R.)
1636,	Dec. 28.	Thomas Earle and Elizabeth Litherland	- - - - -	Married.
1640,	April 6.	Matthew Earle of Gt. Sankey	-	Buried (B.R.)
1640,	Aug. -	Molgow Earle	- - - - -	Buried.
1646,	April 11.	Thomas Earle and Elizabeth Ffourd	- - - - -	Married.
1648,	March-	Mary, dau. of Richard Earle	-	Baptized.
1650.		Gregory Earle	- - - - -	Buried.
1652,	Oct. -	Richard Earle of Bridge St.	-	Buried.
1652,	Dec. 1.	Alice, dau. of Thomas Earle	-	Baptized.
1654,	Feb. 23.	An infant dau. of do. do.	-	Buried.
1656,	Jan. 11.	Elizabeth, dau. of do. do.	-	Baptized.
1659,	Aug. -	John, son of do. do.	-	Baptized.
1671,	Feb. 4.	Ralph, son of Ralph Earle and Avis Hagle	- - - -	Baptized (B.R.)
1673,	May 16.	Elizabeth, wife of John Earle	-	Buried.
1673,	Sept. 15.	Ellen Earle and James Willmin	-	Married.
1674,	Oct. 29.	John, son of John Earle	-	Baptized.
1675,	Nov. 23.	Jane, dau. of do. do.	-	Baptized.
1680,	Oct. 7.	Peter, son of John Earle	-	Baptized.
1679,	May 29.	Richard Earle of Bridge St.	-	Buried.
1680,	Oct. 19.	Margaret Earle	- - - - -	Buried.
1683,	Jan. 8.	Katherine, daughter of John Earle	- - - - -	Baptized.
1683,	Feb. 28.	Thomas, son of John Earle	-	Baptized.
1690,	Jan. 26.	Jane, dau. of Mr. John Earle	-	Baptized (B.R.)
1694,	June 8.	Thomas, son of Mr. John Earle	- - - - -	Buried (B.R.)
1694,	July 19.	Peter, son of William Earle	-	Baptized.
1698,	March 5.	Jane, dau. of Ralph Earle	-	Baptized (B.R.)

1698, Dec. 18.	Richard Houghlam and Ellen Earle - - - - -	Married (B.R.)
1700, Oct. 25.	Jane, dau. of Ralph Earle - - - - -	Buried (B.R.)
1708, March-	John Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1709, Feb. 23.	Sarah Earle, widow of John Earle - - - - -	Buried.
1710, Dec. 6.	Elizabeth, dau. of Ralph Earle	Buried.
1720, Dec. 26.	Thomas, son of Thomas Earle	Buried.

CHURCH REGISTERS OF ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

NOTE.—These registers commence in 1661, but contain no entries of the name of Earle before 1700.

1700, Dec. 10.	Mr. John Earl and Mrs. Eleanor Tyrer, both of Liverpoole - -	Married.
1702, June 6.	Thomas, son of John Earle, of Chapel Street, Merchant - - -	"Born."
1702, June 23.	Thomas, son of John Earle, of Chapel Street, Marchant - - -	Christened.
1702, July 14.	Elnor, wife John Earle of Chappel Street, Merchant - - - - -	Buried.
1702-3, Feb. 4.	Thomas, son of John Earle of Chapple Street, Merchant - -	Buried.
1709-10, Feb. 16.	John Earle Esq., Mayor, and Mary ffinch - - - - -	Married.
1710, July 9.	John, son of Richard Earle, of Castle Street - - - - -	"Born."
1711, Dec. 29.	Elizabeth, d. of John Earl Esq., Chappell Street - - - - -	"Born."
1713, June 21.	John, s. of Alderman John Earl, Water Street - - - - -	"Born."
1715, Oct. 1.	Ralph, s. of Alderman Jno. Earl, Water Street, Merchant - - -	"Born."
1717, Nov. 10.	Sarah, d. to Alderman John Earle, Water St., Merchant - - - -	"Born."
1719, June 20.	Thomas, s. of Alderman John Earle, Water St., Merchant - -	"Born."
1719, June 21.	Thomas, s. of Alderman John Earle, Water St., Merchant - -	Baptized.
1718-9, March 6.	Elizabeth, d. of Alderman John Earl, Water St., Merchant - -	Buried.
1726, Aug. 13.	Dorothy, d. of Alderman John Earl, Water St., Merchant - -	Buried.

Matthew Earle. Ad ^o granted in London - - -	3 June, 1655.
Robert Earle of Risley. Ad ^o - - - - -	1667.
William Earle de Kingsley. Ad ^o - - - - -	4 Oct., 1668.
Robert Earle of Culcheth. Test. - - - - -	27 Sept., 1672.
Anne Earle (citis Cest.) Test. cum Inv. - - -	20 Dec., 1681.
Robert Earle de Stockham. Ad ^o - - - - -	28 Jan., 1681.
Anne Earle de Sankey Magna. Admin ^o cum Inv. - - - - -	23 Nov., 1686.
John Earle of Betusfield, par. of Hanmer, co. Flint. Ad ^o - - - - -	1695.

FINCH FAMILY.

(See p. 34.)

The family of Finch is one of great antiquity, and, according to Dugdale, dates back to the time of Henry I., when their first ancestor, Henry Fitz-Herbert, was chamberlain to the King. Henry Fitz-Herbert's descendants appear to have divided into two families, from one of which sprang the Herberts created Earls of Pembroke, and from the other the Herberts who married the heiress of Finche and assumed that name. Towards the close of the fourteenth century the Finches were represented by two brothers—(1) William of Netherfield, co. Sussex, and (2) John.

The eldest was the ancestor of Finch Earls of Winchilsea and Nottingham, who threw off a younger branch, eventually Finch Earls of Aylesford.

The second brother married the heiress of the Sewers of Linstead, co. Kent, and left one son, William of Linstead, who died 1544. The descendants of this William made a further division into two branches, of which one settled and held lands at Watford in Hertfordshire; and of the latter was Mary Finch's father, Ralph Finch, who was born 1632 and died 1685.

This gentleman married an heiress, Elizabeth D'Anyers or Daniell, whose family, as one of the oldest in Cheshire, merits some notice.

Their arms were as below—*Argent, a pale, fusilly, Sable*—and we find them quartering at different periods the armorial bearings of other Cheshire families, by virtue of marriage with heiresses.

By reference to the following pedigree, it will be seen that Elizabeth D'Anyers was granddaughter of Peter D'Anyers, Esq., of Over Tabley, who traced descent from Sir Thomas de Anyers and his wife Catherine, heiress of De Tabley, and also from Thomas De Anyers of Over Tabley, who married Isabel, heiress of the Rixtons, in 1431.

gentleman who had suffered much in the Civil Wars. On the latter estate stood Monks Hall, a large wooden and plaster building near Eccles Church, now occupied by a farmer, "the public having the singular privilege of a thorough lobby through the house."

Mr. Thomas Willis lived at Halsnead, and marrying, left a son and heir, Martin Willis, and a daughter, Bertha, who married William Swetenham, Esq., of Swetenham.

Mr. Thomas Willis' wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Edward Martin of Drogheda. His son Martin upon his father's decease continued at Halsnead, and appears to have taken some position in county affairs, and to have been active in assisting the authorities in his Hundred of West Derby; in superintending local expenditure, inspecting the "reformaçon of the King's highwayes", and such like "publick works which in those days "no gentleman took it amisse to be intreated to promote." (Norris Papers.)

Mr. Martin Willis married a daughter of Colonel William D'Anyers (whose sister married Ralph Finch; see pedigree on p. 74), and had by her, Ellen D'Anyers, two sons.

The eldest of these, Thomas, died s.p. in 1727; the younger, Daniel Willis, inherited the estates. He married Anne, daughter of William Farington, Esq., of Shaw Hall, Lancashire, and died in 1763, also without issue, leaving the property by will to his cousin Thomas Swetenham, son of his aunt Bertha and William Swetenham.

Mr. Swetenham assumed the surname of Willis, and resided at Halsnead for 25 years, but he too had no children, and upon his death, in 1788, the next surviving heir in Daniel Willis' entail proved to be his distant kinsman Ralph Earle, who, with his brothers Thomas and William Earle, were named to succeed in the event of the family issue failing.

Changing his name and adopting the arms of Willis, Ralph Earle took possession, but enjoyed his good fortune but two years, being then an old man. He died on 30th April, 1790, aged 75, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard, whose offspring multiplied considerably.* (Particulars of the family are to be found in Burke's *Landed Gentry and Commoners of England*.)

In conjunction with the neighbouring landowners, the Willises have profited much by the great development of the coal workings, which in the present century have so greatly altered the face of South Lancashire; and collieries have undermined

* There is an abstract of mortgage (of an estate in Tarbock) among the Croxeth muniments, which recites that Richard Earle by Act of Parliament took the name of Willis (29 George IV.), and that on 8th September, 1786, he made settlement on Cicely Fielden, whom he then married.

casually mentioned in earlier records, and I find one Nicholas Morte as early as 1427, in the *Lancashire Inquisitions* (vol. ii, p. 18)—“nup p'sona ecclesie de Swynesheved”—and again, written Nicholas Motte, p. 20.

But the family recorded no pedigree in Lancashire earlier than Dugdale's Visitation in 1664, and their previous history is difficult to trace. They had then, however, become landowners in the county, having purchased, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, an estate in Tyldesley, from the Andertons of Lostocke (*Cheth. Soc.*, vol. lxix, p. 173); and some years later, 1606-9, the adjacent manor of Astley, from Sir Gilbert Gerard (*Not. Cest.*, vol. ii, pt. 2). Upon this they built a residence called Dam House, an ancient mansion, partly timbered, partly brick, which is still standing, and where the head of the family was living at the Visitation referred to.

From the pedigree then recorded, it appears that at the earliest period of which it treats there were two branches of the Morts in existence; for the first ancestor, Adam Mort of Bolton, is married to Jennet, the heiress of the Morts of Dam House.

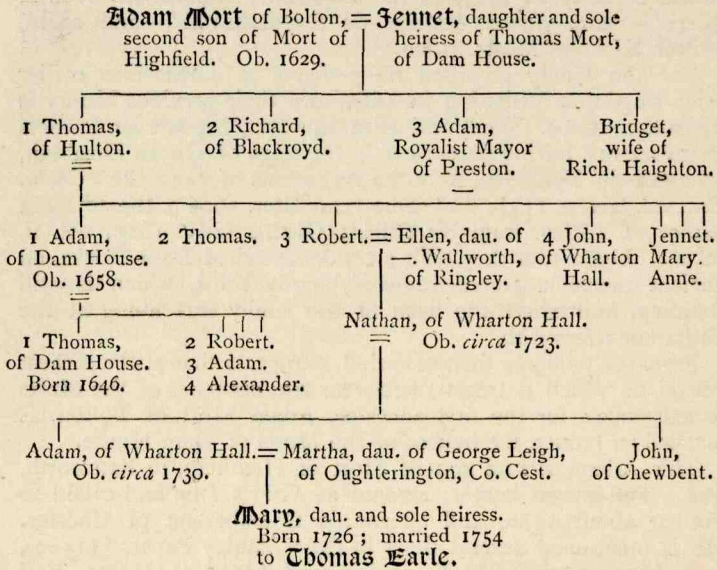
This Adam, second son of Mort of Highfield, in Farnworth, was a well-known lawyer, entered at Gray's Inn, and called to the bar about 1580, and afterwards Chamberlain of Chester. He is mentioned several times in the “Stanley Papers” (1589), as a frequent visitor at Knowsley, and friend of Henry, Earl of Derby.

Of the Morts of Highfield I have no record, nor of their former connection with those of Dam House. From the alliance of the two sprang the Morts of Wharton Hall.

Wharton Hall lies in the township of Shakerley, some two miles from Dam House, and for several generations has been in the occupation of a family of farmers of the name of Green. It is a picturesque black and white gabled house, and its massive, rough hewn oak timbers and general construction testify to its great age and to its having been a place of some local importance probably earlier than Dam House. For four generations prior to its passing into the hands of the Earles (1754), it had been, off and on, the residence of the Morts.

From Wills at Chester, and by the marriage settlement of Mary Mort, the heiress, wife to Thomas Earle, we trace her descent from Robert, grandson of that Adam and Jennet Mort already noticed, whose family is recorded by Dugdale (*Cheth. Soc.*, vol. lxxxv). The following short pedigree will show more clearly the later generations:—

MORT PEDIGREE.



Of the Mort arms, Gwilym, in 1680, states:—"He beareth *Argent, on a bend Gules four lozenges of the field*, by the name of Mort, and is the paternal coat-armour of Thomas Mort of Astley, near Leigh, in Lancashire, Esquire." In some cases three lozenges appear, instead of four.

There is another and previous grant to the Morts of Dam House: *Argent, a lion rampant Gules, over all two bars Sable*. Their crest was a *phoenix in flames Proper*.

Bishop Gastrell in his *Notitia Cestriensis*, and Canon Raines in his notes to the same, refer to this family, and give some further particulars of the succession in the elder line to the present owner of Dam House, George Nugent Ross Wetherall, Esq.

Wharton Hall and the property inherited by the Earles from Mary Mort, was sold twenty years ago, for its coalfield, and is now the centre of an active mining district.

