

HISTORY OF DADLINGTON

BY WILLIAM BURTON OF LINDLEY.

DADLINGTON.

Dadlington continues, as it was described in 1220, to be a hamlet containing a chapel dependant on the town of Hinckley. In the collection of rates, however, it is, like Stoke, distinct. The manor, as appears from Burton*, who was himself lord of it, was anciently the inheritance of William de Hastings, lord steward of the household to king Henry the second, from whom lineally descended Henry Hastings, created baron Abergavenny in right of Joane his wife, daughter and heir of William de Cantelupe lord Abergavenny, from whom descended lineally Lawrence created earl of Pembroke; whose grandchild John earl of Pembroke dying without issue, all his lands, manors and tenements descended and came to Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, as cousin and next heir to the said John earl of Pembroke by Elizabeth grandmother of the said Reginald, who was daughter of John Hastings lord Abergavenny, and great great aunt to the last John earl of Pembroke: Philip the widow of this last John earl of Pembroke was married to Richard earl of Arundel and was endowed with part of this manor. These lord Hastings (long before the statute of Quia emptores terrarum, made the 13th of Edw. I) gave certain lands within the said manor to divers persons, to be held of the said manor by several tenures. The above named Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin gave this manor, with the manor of Barwell and other lands in the county of Leicester, to Sir John Grey his younger son. John

Grey of Barwell Esq., descended lineally from the said Sir John Grey, in the reign of queen Elizabeth sold this manor with the Of whom, and his brother, an account will be hereafter given.

court leet thereto belonging to my father Rafe Burton of Lindley, Esq., and it is now the inheritance of me William Burton, son and heir of him the said Rafe Burton.

Mr Hurst has in his possession the court rolls from 1272, and a curious MS. drawn up by Burton, under the title of :-

"Antiquitates de Dadlington manerio com. Leic. sive Exemplificatio Scriptorum, Cartarum veterum, Inquisitionum, Rotulorum Curiarum, Recordorum, & h[er]editatem de Burton in dicto manerio de Dadlington, qu[od] nunc sunt penes me Will'mum Burton de Lindley com. Leic. modernum dominum dicti manerii de Dadlington. Labore & studio mei Will'mi Burton de Lindley, Apprenticii Legum Angli[ca]rum, & Socii Interioris Templi Londoni, nuper habitantis apud Falde co., Staff. nunc apud Lindley, 25 Aug. 1625, [f. 50]"

John of Bolinbroke occurs in this MS. (temp. 18 Ed. II) as Esch[er]tor domini regis. After that time the Greys appear to have been lords till 1585, when it was purchased by the Burtons. Mr William Cox was owner in 1659; Joshua Grundy Esq., in 1742; and in 1772 it came to William Hurst, Esq., and Nicholas Hurst, Gent., the present owners.

It appears from Burton's MS. that the manors of Higham and Dadlington were united under one lord; and in all the court rolls, from the reign of Edward the Second to the present time, the inquisitions, &c. have been taken for the manors of

Dadlington and Higham; and by an antient roll we learn that the inhabitants of Higham were fined at Dadlington court, for not providing bows and arrows.

Dadlington is situated on rising ground, in a good and healthful air, about one mile from Stoke, in the road to Bosworth near the ground where the memorable and decisive battle was fought between the houses of York and Lancaster.

* see hereafter.

The account already given of this remarkable event in English History may be illustrated by the following short narrative of facts: Richmond, landing at Milford

Haven, passed through Haverford West, and crossing the Severn came to Shrewsbury, and thence through Lichfield to Tamworth, where his army arrived late in the evening, but he himself, following in the rear with about twenty bowmen, missed his road and passed the night solitarily at a little village three miles distant. Early on the 25th (sic), after shewing himself at Tamworth, to his army, he had an interview with his father-in-law lord Stanley at Atherstone, when measures were concerted for operations of the next day. ; and in the evening he was joined by Sir John Savage, Sir Bryan Sanford, Sir Simon Digby, and many other experienced warriors. Richard, meantime, despising the supposed weakness of his adversary, yet desiring effectually to crush him, led his army in great regal state from Nottingham Castle to Leicester, through which town he passed in open pomp, the crown-royal on his head, on Sunday evening and thence came to a hill called Arme Beame, in the parish of Bosworth, where, he "pitched his field, refreshed his soldiers and took his rest." The next morning early, bringing all his men out of the camp into the plain, he ordered both horsemen and footmen to be drawn up in a length of line, that their numbers

might appear as large as possible. The archers were placed in the front, under the command of the duke of Norfolk and his son the earl of Surrey. This long vanguard was followed by Richard himself with a chosen band, supported on each side with wings of horsemen. The whole number exceeded 16,000.

The army of Richmond, which amounted not to 5,000 was proportionally arranged by their gallant leader. The archers, in a narrow front, were led by the earl of Oxford, the right wing was entrusted to Sir Gilbert Talbot, the left to Sir John Savage. Richmond himself reserved a good company of horse, and a small number of foot.

On each side the leader addressed his troops with a spirited oration, "which was fiercely finished", says an old tradition, "but the one army espied the other, Lord!, how hastily the soldiers buckled their helms, how quickly the archers bent their bows, and brushed their feathers, how readily the billmen shook their bills and proved their staves, ready to approach and join when the terrible trumpet should sound the bloody blast to victory or death! Between both armies there was a great morass

which the earl of Richmond left on his right hand for this intent that it should be on that side a defence for his part, and in so doing he had the sun at his back, and in the faces of his enemies."

The first conflict of the archers being over the armies met fiercely with swords and bills, and at this period the earl was joined by lord Stanley, which determined the fortune of the day. In this battle above a thousand persons were slain on the side of Richard; and amongst them the duke of Norfolk, the lord of Ferrars of Chartley, Sir Richard Ratclyffe and Sir Robert Brakenbury lieutenant of the Tower. Of Richmond's army scarcely one hundred were slain among whom the principal person was Sir William Brandon, his standard-bearer.

The victor was crowned in the field by Sir William Stanley, with a crown of ornament which Richard wore in the battle, and which was found among the spoils. The battle which lasted little more than two hours was fought on the 22nd of August 1525 (sic); and hence, by the way, may be pointed out a palpable mistake in Cibber's additions to Shakespeare's tragedy, where Richard in the eve of the battle smells "the ripe harvest of the new mown hay."

In the field still known by the name of "Crown-hill", whence gravel is sometimes fetched to repair the highways, Mr Robinson informs me, there have been dug up many human skeletons, which are said to be very common on breaking fresh ground.

From this spot is a fine and extensive view along the vale towards Bosworth, being the celebrated ground commonly called King Richard's Field. A tradition remains, that the crown was secreted on this hill or spot, which is but just without the

The soil of Dadlington is of a gravelly mixed nature, and is fruitful in corn and grass, and excellent for orchard fruit especially for the nonpareil and others of a choice kind. The absinthium or wormwood grows here spontaneously in great plenty. The scarce and tender bird the nightingale is here more common than in any other parts of the country, and frequently in the summer season serenades the benighted traveller.

THE CHAPEL.

The Chapel is appropriated to the dean and chapter of Westminster, who allow $\times 20$ a year to the minister (payable by

the lessee of their glebe) for serving the cure. The present chaplain is the Rev. Mr Galloway, vicar of Hinckley; his curate the Rev. Mr Brown.

In 1622 the following arms remained in this chapel:-

Or, a maunch Gules. Hastings.

Barry of 6, Arg. & Az. 3 torteauxes in chief, quartered with Hastings and Valence. Grey.

Quarterly. Azure, fem^c d' Estoiles a crescent Arg. Azure, a fess between t talbots heads erased Or. Burton.

The chapel bears evident marks of great qntiquity; and, by some late repairs, makes a decent appearance. It has a small wooden turret with two bells. There was within memory a large old door on the North side, now stopped up. Part of the arch remains filled up with modern brick-work. But a better idea of it may be taken from the south-west view it in plate X which my readers owe to the kin^dness of Mr Robinson.

In the inside is a very old town chest without date.

The Lord's prayer &c. were new painted in 1773; Thomas Eames, churchwarden.

There are the remains of an old monument of the Cottons, but not one letter legible. The arms (viz. Azure on a Chevron Arg. 3 Katharine wheels Gules, (see plate V. fig. 14.) are barely discernible on an old pane of painted glass.

Within the chapel there is not one monumental inscription; and in the burying-ground which surrounds it there are but few, amongst which the family of Ballard is most conspicuous. The

following epitaph is remarkable only for its simplicity:-

"Here lyeth interred the late THOMAS BALLARD of Drayton,
who departed this life the 16th October 1765, in the 84th year
of his age.

I lov'd my honour'd parents dear,

I lov'd my wife and children dear,

I lov'd my brothers and sisters too,

And hope in heaven to meet them there,

I lov'd my uncles, aunts and cousins too,

I pray to God to give my children grace, the same to do."

"ELIZABETH BALLARD, late wife of Thomas, died Sept. 28,
1761, aged 77."

There are also monuments to three of their children; and one in
memory of

"JOHN EVERARD, who died Jan. 3, 1726, aged 40."ü