

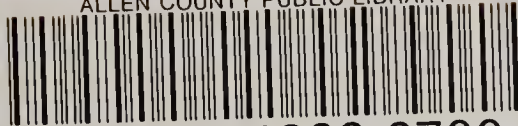


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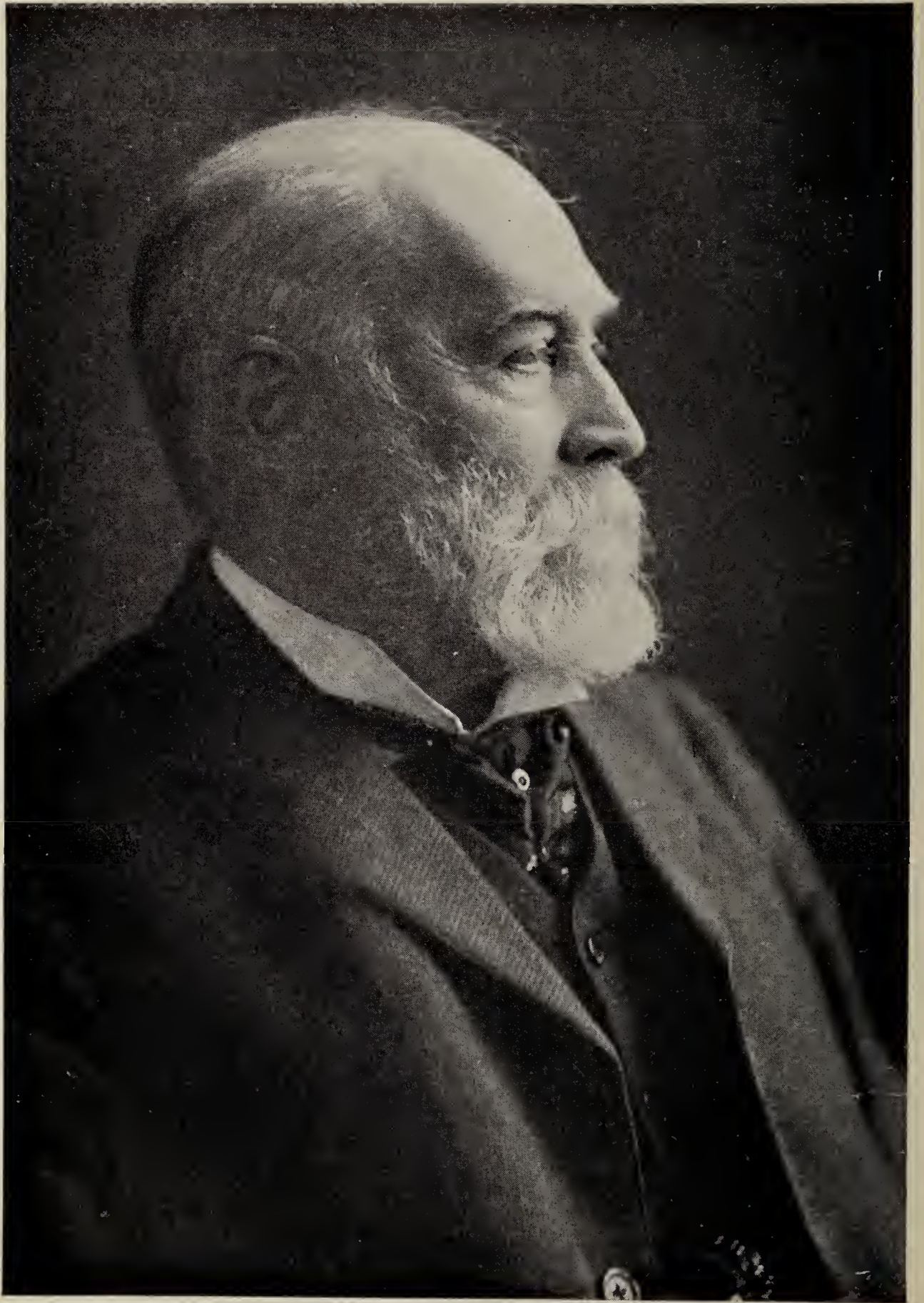
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THE HOLLAND FAMILY



WILLIAM RICHARD HOLLAND

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

(THE HOLLANDS OF BARTON-UNDER-
NEEDWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE, AND
THE HOLLANDS IN HISTORY)

Based on information collected by the late

WILLIAM RICHARD HOLLAND

of Barton-under-Needwood,

and compiled by a member

of the Family

LONDON

PHILIP ALLAN & CO. LTD.

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*To the
memory of the late*

WILLIAM RICHARD HOLLAND
*of Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs.
and of Ashbourne, Derbyshire,
whose researches into the past
inspired the undertaking
of these Records*

But Smith - 16.00

A FOREWORD

FROM time to time members of the Holland family of Barton-under-Needwood, whose founder settled there over six hundred years ago, have occupied themselves in gathering together particulars relating to their forebears. In 1822, some correspondence on the subject passed between James Holland, a barrister living in London, whose ancestor left Barton towards the end of the 17th century, and Charles Ashby Holland of Barton, both until then complete strangers. Much interesting information was exchanged in this way.

In more recent times a similar correspondence took place, and again between two remote kinsmen, namely Col. John Yate Holland of Cheltenham, and William Richard Holland of Barton-under-Needwood, and of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, the latter representing the main Barton stock. Both had been interested for years in looking up facts, not only in connection with Barton, but with the early Lancashire history of the Holland family, and with its illustrious branch. The memoranda left by both are very considerable.

A FOREWORD

William Richard Holland always hoped to be able one day to reduce his extensive notes to order, and from them draw up an account of his family, but for lack of the necessary leisure, this wish remained unfulfilled. A few years after his death an attempt was made to carry out his wish, the result being these Records, intended, by the writer, for the perusal only of members and friends of the Barton family. That they are now appearing in published form is the outcome of a suggestion that others also might be interested, as, for instance, anyone acquainted with any of the places mentioned, or who would be interested in the story of a bygone age. All the information contained in Mr. Holland's memoranda has been strictly verified, in process of which many new facts have come to light. Miss Mary Holland of Barton-under-Needwood has throughout rendered most valuable assistance.

Grateful thanks for their expert help and advice are also due to the following : Sir Reginald Hardy, Bart., D.L., of Dunstall Hall, near to Barton, a well-known authority on matters antiquarian and author of *A History of Tatenhill* (Barton was formerly in the parish of Tatenhill) ; the late Wm. Farrer, D.Litt., a leading Lancashire Antiquary, and Editor of the *Victoria County History of Lancaster* ; Mr. John Brownbill, M.A., his colleague in this work, and Miss H. L. E. Garbett, Librarian of the Wm. Salt

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Historical Library, Stafford. Dr. Farrer's assistance included the loan of his fine collection of Lancashire documents relating to the Hollands.

Authorities referred to for the Barton family, and Barton neighbourhood, are : Vol. I of Shaw's *History and Antiquities of Staffordshire* (1789), *The Staffordshire Historical Collections*, published by the Wm. Salt Society, Sir Reginald Hardy's *History of Tatenhill* (1907), Masefield's *Staffordshire* (1910), Sir Oswald Mosley's *History of Tutbury* (1832), and Hackwood's *Chronicles of Cannock Chase* (with an article on Needwood Forest), while old family Wills, and the Parish Registers of Barton, Tatenhill, Rugeley, and Blithfield, have assisted in tracing back descent.

The chief authorities referred to for the Upholland family, and the historical line are : *The Victoria County History of Lancaster*, Baines' *History of Lancashire*, Dugdale's *Baronage of England*, Burke's *Extinct Peerage*, *The Complete Peerage* (2nd Ed. for "Holand"—compiled by Mr. J. Brownbill—and "Exeter," and 1st Ed. for "Kent"). *The Lancashire Hollands*, by Bernard Holland (1917), *The Staffordshire Historical Collections*, Doyle's *Official Baronage*, Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families*, Vol. II (for the "Fair Maid of Kent"), Prince's *Worthies of Devon* (1698), Blore's *History of Rutland* (in connection with Ryhall), Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of England*, the *Chronicle of Froissart*

A FOREWORD

and of Holinshed, Histories of England, notably by Lingard, Sir Charles Oman, and Professor Meiklejohn, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and the *Calendars of Patent, Close, and Charter Rolls*.

NOTE.—Abbreviations. *S.H.C.* (*Staffordshire Historical Collections*); *Cal. Pat.* (*Calendar of Patent Rolls*); *V.C.H.Lancs.* (*Victoria County History of Lancaster*).



John Holland

This book plate was drawn by Hogarth for John Holland, the Heraldic Painter, and appears as an illustration in Vol. XXXV of the *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society*. It is reproduced here by kind permission of the Society.

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PART I

THE HOLLANDS OF BARTON-UNDER-
NEEDWOOD

THE HOLLANDS OF BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

I

RICHARD DE HOLLAND

“ The Muse to the Staffordian fields doth rove,
Visits the springs of Trent and Dove,
Of Moreland, Cank*, and Needwood sings
An end to which this Canto brings.

The eld'st of which is Cank ; though Needwood her
surmount

In excellence of soil, by being richly plac'd
'Twixt Trent and bat'ning Dove ; and equally im-
brac'd

By their abounding banks, participates their store ;
Of Britain's forests all (from th' less unto the more)
In fineness of her turfe surpassing ; and doth beare
Her curled head so high, that forests far and neare
Oft grutch at her estate.”

MICHAEL DRAYTON, 1563-1631.

THE Holland family living at Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire, descend from a Richard de Holland (or de Holand, as the name was then spelt), who settled there in the early part of the reign of Edward II. He came, so the tradition has always been, from Upholland in Lancashire, where a

* The Forest of Cannock.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

family of that name had been in existence for some time.

Barton lies near the Derbyshire border of Staffordshire, the river Trent dividing the two counties in this particular region. Further north the Dove becomes the dividing river.

A few miles south of Barton lies Lichfield. To the north lies Burton-on-Trent, and a few miles further north still, Tutbury, often to be alluded to in this narrative.

To the west of Barton, in bygone days, stretched the great Forest of Needwood. Barton lay just outside the Forest, hence its full name, "Barton-under-Needwood."

At the time of Richard de Holland, both Barton, Staffordshire, and Upholland, Lancashire, were a part of the Earldom (later Duchy) of Lancaster, which domain came into being in the reign of Henry III, following the defeat of the Barons in their rebellion against the King.

The leaders of this rebellion were Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, the king's brother-in-law, and Robert de Ferrers, Lord of Tutbury and Earl of Derby, whose vast territory lay in many of the midland counties, and extended into southern Lancashire. When Prince Edward (afterwards Edward I) triumphed over his father's enemies, and the lands of the vanquished leaders were forfeited, Henry III gave the whole of the

confiscated territory of Robert de Ferrers, with the rest of Lancashire and much else besides, to his younger son, Edmund, surnamed "Crouchback," whom he created Earl of Lancaster, Edmund Crouchback becoming thereby the first of the historic House of Lancaster.*

Tutbury Castle, the former abode of the de Ferrers, was from this time the midland headquarters of the Earls (later Dukes) of Lancaster. Both Barton and Needwood Forest were contained in the honour of Tutbury, "honour" meaning a collection of manors under one lord paramount.

It is in connection with Thomas second Earl of Lancaster, son and successor of Edmund Crouchback, that we first meet with Richard de Holland at Barton. In 1314 (7 Ed. II) the Earl granted him extensive rights and privileges in the adjoining Forest of Needwood. The charter authorising these rights and privileges is printed in Shaw's *History and Antiquities of Staffordshire*.†

From a record to be found among the *Ministers' Accounts* of the Duchy of Lancaster, dated a year earlier than the charter (1313), we learn that

* The son of Robert de Ferrers succeeded in retaining the Castle of Chartley, situated between Stafford and Uttoxeter, where the family flourished as Lords Ferrers, and Barons of Chartley, until the reign of Henry VI, when Chartley passed into the Devereux family. This was upon the marriage of the heiress of the de Ferrers with Sir Walter Devereux. A descendant of this union was the Earl of Essex, favourite of Queen Elizabeth. Mary Queen of Scots was removed to Chartley from Tutbury, in the year of her execution.

† Shaw's *History*, I, p. 111.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

Richard held an official position in the Earl's territory of the Peak, a region also in the honour of Tutbury. This record in addition furnishes fairly convincing evidence that he was by 1313 settled at Barton, for it was the Reeve of Barton, when submitting the Barton manorial accounts at Tutbury, who notified that 9s. and 10d. had been delivered to Richard de Holland, "Instaurarius" of the Peak (*et IX^s X^d liberatos Ricardo de Holande, instaurario de Pecco*).*

As to what this office actually was that Richard held in the Peak,† a leading expert on antiquarian matters‡ has supplied the following information : "The word 'Instaurarius' or 'Instaurator' may be Englished as Stock-keeper or Stud-keeper. He was the man responsible for the cattle and horses on

* *Ministers' Accounts*, Bundle I, No. 3. (See *A History of Tatenhill*, II, pp. 5 and 7.)

† In *The High Peak to Sherwood*, by Thos. L. Tudor, we read : "The term 'Alto Pecco' (High Peak) came into use about the end of the 13th century. *The Hundred Rolls* (circa 1273) sometimes says 'Peak,' sometimes 'High Peak.' In the reign of Henry VIII, the 'Peak' was sufficient. The Term 'Peak' seems to be a perennial cause of guessing. Those who have but a slight knowledge of this region are always surprised to find that it is not characterised by one dominant peak or group of peaks. It is a region of high country, which just passes the 2,000 feet level, in which irregular heights may sometimes present this shape, but on the whole the term, in its commonly accepted meaning, does not apply. Whether the term ever meant 'peak' at all is even doubtful. It probably meant something quite different. However, allowing for a popular application of the term, it has become a useful and concise designation, and helps to distinguish the highlands of Derbyshire in a very definite way, a picturesque way, that agreeably excites the imagination."

‡ Mr. J. Brownbill.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

the estate, and his importance varied, of course, according to the size of the estate, and the dignity of the master he served. In Richard de Holland's case, the master was the leading man in the Kingdom, and the Peak lands would probably be large, as the district is extensive. There was no need for the Stock-keeper of the Peak to live in his district. He was responsible, but if he had trustworthy deputies, he could live anywhere. The Peak was not a very great distance from Barton. People in the Middle Ages travelled about a great deal in the saddle—not ordinary villagers of course, but the great lords and their servants and officials, and those in positions of trust.”*

The charter, dated 1314, granting Richard rights and privileges in Needwood Forest, reads as follows :

“ Thomas Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, high-steward of England, to whom all these present shall come, greeting : Know ye, that we have given, &c., to Richard Holland of Barton, and his heirs, housboot, heyboot, and fireboot, and common of pasture, in our forest of Needwood, for all his beasts, as well in places fenced as lying open, with 40 hogs, quit of pawnage in our said forest at all times in the year (except hogs only in fence month). All which premises we will warrant, &c. to the said Richard and his heirs against all people for ever.

“ Test Sir Ralph de Rolleston, &c.

* The horsebreeding establishments of the Peak are referred to in an article in *The Journal* of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society (Vol. XIV, p. 161), entitled, “ The Lost History of Peak Forest.”

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

“ Given at our manor of Rockley, Dec. 29. 7 Ed. II.”*

These are the earliest records extant which give information of Richard. Though they contain no direct proof of his origin, indirect evidence leaves no reasonable ground to doubt the tradition that has always been, that he was one of the family belonging to Upholland.

Of this family we read in the *Victoria County History of Lancaster*: “ The Hollands were a numerous clan in south-west Lancashire ; their importance greatly increased with the rise of their chief.”† This passage refers to Sir Robert de Holland, the head of the clan, and the position he

* This is a 17th-century abstract of Richard’s charter, made by the Parliamentary Commissioners in 1650, the year following the execution of King Charles I, when they visited the neighbourhood with a view to the sale of the Forest. Richard’s charter was then in the possession of Mr. Thos. Bott, of Dunstall, near to Barton, since which time all trace of it has been lost. The above abstract is among a collection of MSS. entitled, *A Survey of the Chase of Needwood*, etc., preserved in the Public Record Office, Augmentation Office, Parliamentary Surveys, Stafford, No. 9 m. 10.

The terms “ housboot,” “ heyboot ” and “ fireboot,” meant that Richard and his heirs were to have the privilege of taking from the Forest, wood needed for house repair and building, hedging material for the repairing of fences, and what was needful for purposes of fuel.

“ Quit of pawnage ” meant that Richard and those after him were to be exempt from this customary return or payment made to the Lord of the Manor for permission to feed swine in the Forest. Pawnage or pannage was, in many cases, a considerable charge, so that to be quit of it was a privilege worth having.

The “ fence month ” was the closing time for fawning, and comprised fifteen days before Midsummer, and fifteen days after, during which time no kind of dog was allowed to go at large in the forest ; and the driving of cattle, or any other proceeding tending to disturb the deer, was forbidden.

† Vol. II, p. 198.

held with the Earl of Lancaster, for he was the Earl's most intimate official, his secretary so called, who enjoyed his confidence and favour in a very special degree. Among the many gifts of territory he received from the Earl was the manor of Yoxall, Staffs., three miles from Barton.* That Richard de Holland should also be in enjoyment of the Earl's favour is assumed to have been through his connection with Sir Robert, and the latter's influence with his Chief.†

In 1312, the year before we first meet with Richard, Thomas Earl of Lancaster had been one of the principal leaders in the Barons' Rebellion against the King (Edward II), and his favourite, Gaveston, Sir Robert de Holland assisting him on this occasion.

In 1322 the Earl organised another rebellion against the King, and his new favourites, the Despensers. In this second rebellion, with its fatal ending for the Earl at the battle of Boroughbridge (Yorks.), Richard de Holland of Barton as well as Sir Robert took part.

The rival armies first encountered at Burton-on-

* *Cal. Pat.*, 1317-20, p. 431.

† The late Lancashire Antiquary, Wm. Farrer, D.Litt. (part Editor of the *V.C.H., Lancs.*), when consulted on the point of Richard's origin replied: "My opinion is that he came from Upholland, but the point is fairly obvious, owing to Richard of Barton's connection with Thomas of Lancaster, and the very few families of Holland other than this Lancs. family which then existed."

Richard, after settling at Barton, still kept his family name, appearing henceforth as "Richard de Holland of Barton."

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Trent, where Richard with other adherents of the Earl strove to prevent the royal armies crossing the River Trent at Burton Bridge. He and his confederates also helped to break down the bridges of Wichnor and Ridware, situated beyond Barton, in a further effort to impede the passage of the King.

These circumstances are recorded in the following *Plea Rolls for the County of Stafford*, printed for the Wm. Salt Society.*

Coram Rege in Co. Stafford. Mich. 17 Ed. II.

"I. The Jury of the Hundred of Pirhull presented that William Malveysin, Ralph le Walker, Richard de Stretton, Gilbert Henri (etc.) during Lent in 15 E. II, were at the bridge of Burton assisting the Earl of Lancaster against the King, and that the said Gilbert, and one Richard de Holand of Barton, at the time the King was pursuing the said Earl and his rebels, broke down the bridge of Rydeware to impede the passage of the King. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to attach them, and the said William Mauveysin, Gilbert Henri, and Richard de Holand of Barton afterwards appeared, and being questioned respecting the premises stated they were not guilty, and put themselves on the country, and the Jury said that William Malveysin and Richard de Holand were guilty, and they were committed to the custody of the Marshal, and that the said Gilbert was not guilty. The said William Malveysin and Richard de Holand of Barton afterwards appeared and they could not deny the above transgression, and they were committed to the custody of the Marshal.

* *S.H.C.*, Vol. X, pp. 47 and 48.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

“ William Malveysin afterwards made fine with the King for 20s. and found surety, etc.

“ Richard de Holand made fine for 40s. by the surety of Thomas de Rolleston, Richard de Calangwode, John le Rouse, Robert de Barton, Clerk, etc. who stood bail for his good behaviour in future.

“ II. The Jury of the Hundred of Offlow* presented that John de Myners, Richard de Holand of Barton, John de Vernay, (etc., etc.) broke down the bridge of Wichnor to impede the passage of the King, when he was pursuing the Earl of Lancaster and his other enemies, and they were at the bridge of Burton, assisting the said Earl against the King (&c.).

“ The Sheriff was therefore ordered to attach them, etc.

“ N.B. A postscript shows they all made fine with the King eventually, and found bail for their good behaviour.”

There is a *Staffordshire Plea Roll*, dated the year previous to the battle of Burton Bridge, in which Richard de Holland's name heads the list of several who were summoned for an assault. The *Plea Roll* reads thus :

“ *Banco Roll Easter 16 Ed. II.*

Apud Ebor.

“ Staff—Richard de Holond of Barton, John Vernay, William Mauveysyn, Bastard, Richard de Dulverne, Robert de Mere, and seventeen others were summoned to answer the plea of Ralph de Shepeye, that on Monday, before the Annunciation, 14 Ed. II, they had come with swords, bows and arrows to Draycote and had insulted, beaten and wounded him, for which he

* Staffordshire was anciently divided into five hundreds. The hundred of Offlow, with Barton, was in the east of the county.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

claimed £100 as damages. Richard, John, and William appeared by attorney, and denied the trespass, and appealed to a jury which is to be summoned in a month from Midsummer.”*

Here for the moment we will leave Richard, in order to give some account of Barton and its neighbourhood as it was in far-off days. The purpose of this chapter has been to introduce him as the founder of the family, which has continued at Barton ever since his time. This fact forms the chief interest of their story. Of Richard’s descendants, who always remained in the same quiet region, there is nothing of special note to relate, the interest lying in the glimpses we get of them through the centuries.

* *S.H.C.*, IX, Pt. p. 90.

II

BARTON, TUTBURY, AND NEEDWOOD FOREST

“There was a time when a squirrel could leap from tree to tree the whole length of Staffordshire; from Kinver Forest (in the S.) to Needwood Forest, and on to the Peak, without once setting foot on soil.”

HACKWOOD'S *Chronicles of Cannock Chase*.

THE manor of Barton is mentioned in *Domesday Book*, where we read : “The King (William the Conqueror) holds Bertone. Earl Algar formerly held it.” For a long time Barton formed part of the parish of Tatenhill.

The Conqueror gave Barton, with the manor of Wichnor close by, to Sir Gaulter de Somerville, one of his Norman followers.

He gave Tutbury, together with extensive territory in the Midlands, to Henry de Ferrers,*

* His name bears reference to the shoeing of horses. He held a kind of superintendence over the smiths of William's army. After the Crusades, when families bore upon their shields various insignia, in allusion to circumstances connected with their origin, history, occupation, etc., the armorial bearings of this family were a charge of six horseshoes, which to this day are borne in various devices by all descendants of this noble house.



MAP OF BARTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BARTON, TUTBURY, AND NEEDWOOD FOREST

another Norman follower and a favourite official, who assisted in the compiling of *Domesday Book*.

Barton did not come into the possession of the de Ferrers family until some time later, (temp. Henry II) and then it was through an exchange of manors made between William de Ferrers and Walter de Somerville, Lord of Wichnor.

Henry de Ferrers, following the Conqueror's gift, built Tutbury Castle as a central abode for himself in the midst of all his midland territory.

The Castle was erected where a Saxon fortress had formerly stood, on a rock foundation, rising steeply above the banks of the river Dove, which separates Staffordshire from Derbyshire. Thus Tutbury Castle stood on the very edge of the County of Stafford, and from this commanding situation could be seen the lordships and manors appertaining to the honour of Tutbury in the counties of Stafford, Derby, and Leicester.

Barton, as we have seen, was one of these manors. Another was Yoxall, three miles from Barton, which was given by the Earl of Lancaster to his secretary, Sir Robert de Holland.

Concerning the old Forest or Chase of Needwood, situated in the midst of all this neighbourhood, this beautiful woodland was about twenty-four miles in compass. Close to its northern border lay Tutbury, Barton touched its eastern, and Yoxall its southern border.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

The Forest was divided into four wards, viz. : Tutbury ward, Marchington ward (Marchington lies near to Tutbury,) Yoxall ward, and Barton ward, under the rule of officers who lived within the borders of the Forest, at houses called "lodges." These were Byrkley Lodge, Yoxall Lodge, Sherholt Park Lodge (in Barton ward), and Ealand Lodge (in Marchington ward).

Of Marchington ward, Shaw writing towards the close of the 18th century says : " This ward has been always more fruitful in timber than any other part of the Forest, and the famous Swilcar Oak, a tree of immense size and majestic appearance, said to have stood for over 600 years, is still growing not far from Ealand Lodge, the property of Lord Bagot of Blithfield, and his very ancient family." A great feature of the entire Forest was its number of oaks, while the maple, lime, and wych-elm also flourished, to say nothing of luxuriant undergrowth. Red deer abounded in the Forest, and cattle were allowed to pasture there, but not sheep.

Robin Hood is said to have poached in Needwood as well as in Sherwood Forest, and to have married Maid Marian at Tutbury. The story of how he wooed and won his bride at Tutbury Feast (i.e. the festival of Bull-running, held annually at Tutbury) is told in a ballad in *Robin Hood's Garland*.

Barton, Tutbury, and Needwood Forest, all being a part of the Earldom, and later Duchy, of



BARTON CHURCH

BARTON, TUTBURY, AND NEEDWOOD FOREST

Lancaster, became Crown possessions, when Henry Bolingbroke, son of John of Gaunt, became Henry IV of England.

The manor of Barton was sold by Charles I to the City of London in 1629 (4 Charles I), large sums being needed by the King to carry on the heavy expenses of the Civil War. Following the City of London's purchase, the manor passed into private hands.

In Needwood Forest, many royal personages and great nobles were wont to follow the chase, and the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, when imprisoned at Tutbury, was permitted to hawk within its glades.

It was through an incident which occurred during a royal hunt in the Forest, that Barton Church came to be built. Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart., D.C.L., of Rolleston,* near to Tutbury, relates the incident as follows, in his *History of Tutbury* (pub. 1832).

“ After the termination of those destructive wars ” (the Wars of the Roses) “ which had disturbed and depopulated the Kingdom for nearly thirty years, Henry the Seventh had the good fortune to enjoy a comparatively peaceful reign, during which he had leisure to indulge in his favourite

* He was the second Baronet. The present holder of the title, who married Lady Cynthia Curzon, is the sixth Baronet.

The manor of Rolleston was purchased from the Rolleston family by an ancestor of Sir Oswald Mosley, in the early days of the Stuart period. It had been held by the Rolleston family, since the time of Henry I. Thomas de Rolleston, son of the Ralph de Rolleston who witnessed Richard de Holland's charter, was one of Richard's sureties for the fine of 40s., when the latter was summoned for breaking down the bridge of Rydeware in the Earl of Lancaster's rebellion against Edward II.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

amusement of hunting, and the Castle of Tutbury was sometimes resorted to by that King and his Court, when he pursued this diversion in the adjacent forest of Needwood. His near relationship to the House of Lancaster endeared to him this seat of their former abode, whilst the picturesque scenery which surrounded it not only charmed his eye, but afforded ample scope for the gratification of those pleasures to which he was attached, so that he seldom visited his mother, the Countess of Derby,* who resided at Lathom House in Lancashire, without enjoying on his way thither a short relaxation in the woody recesses of this lovely forest.

“ One day, during the ardour of the chase, he was separated from all his companions, and having in vain sought to join them again through the thick masses of wood with which the forest abounded, he determined at length to extricate himself from his difficulties by proceeding to the nearest village and inquiring his way from thence to Tutbury. It so happened that for this purpose he stopped at the house of a poor man, named Taylor, in the village of Barton-under-Needwood, whose wife had not long before presented him with three sons at a birth. The father volunteered his services to conduct the king, who did not disclose his rank, to the place of his enquiry, and whilst he was making himself ready for that purpose, the mother introduced her three little babes to the stranger at the cottage door. The king was much pleased with the adventure, and in reward for the poor man’s services, undertook to pay for the education of the three children, if they should live long enough to be put to school. Taylor expressed his grateful thanks, and the king did not forget his promise. When the three children attained man’s estate, they had made such good use of the learning thus afforded them, that they all became doctors of divinity, and obtained good preferment. John

* This was the highly gifted and esteemed Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry Tudor, and descendant of John of Gaunt. She married for her third husband, Thomas Stanley, created Earl of Derby after the Battle of Bosworth.

BARTON, TUTBURY, AND NEEDWOOD FOREST

Taylor, the eldest of them, became archdeacon of Derby, rector of Sutton Coldfield, and clerk of the Parliament that sat in the seventh year of the reign of Henry the Eighth. He was made Master of the Rolls in 1528 and died in 1534, but not before he had proved his gratitude to the Almighty Disposer of events for the singular mercies extended to himself and his brothers, by erecting the present Church of Barton, near the site of the cottage in which they first saw light."

Taylor's initials, and his coat-of-arms, with its three babes' heads (in allusion to the circumstances of his birth), and two Tudor roses, occur in several places in the Church.

Needwood abounded in holly trees, and branches of these were used in the severe winters as provender for the deer. Great numbers of these trees still remain, standing round and about Holly Bush Hall, Newborough, in Marchington ward.

It was at Holly Bush Hall, in 1776, that Mr. Francis Noel Clarke Mundy, of Markeaton, Derbyshire, wrote his poem entitled *Needwood Forest*. He rented the house for several years from Lord Bagot of Blithfield as a hunting seat, where (writes Shaw) "he not only pursued the diversions of the chase, but at intervals, inspired with the thousand natural charms around him, penned his beautiful poem," which opens thus :

"Needwood, if e'er my early voice
Hath taught thy echoes to rejoice,
If e'er my hounds in opening cry
Have filled thy banks with ecstasy ;

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If e'er arrayed in cheerful green
Our train hath deck'd thy wintry scene ;
Ere yet thy wood-wild walks I leave,
My tributary verse receive ;
With thy own wreath my brows adorn
And to thy praises tune my horn." . . .

The second part opens :

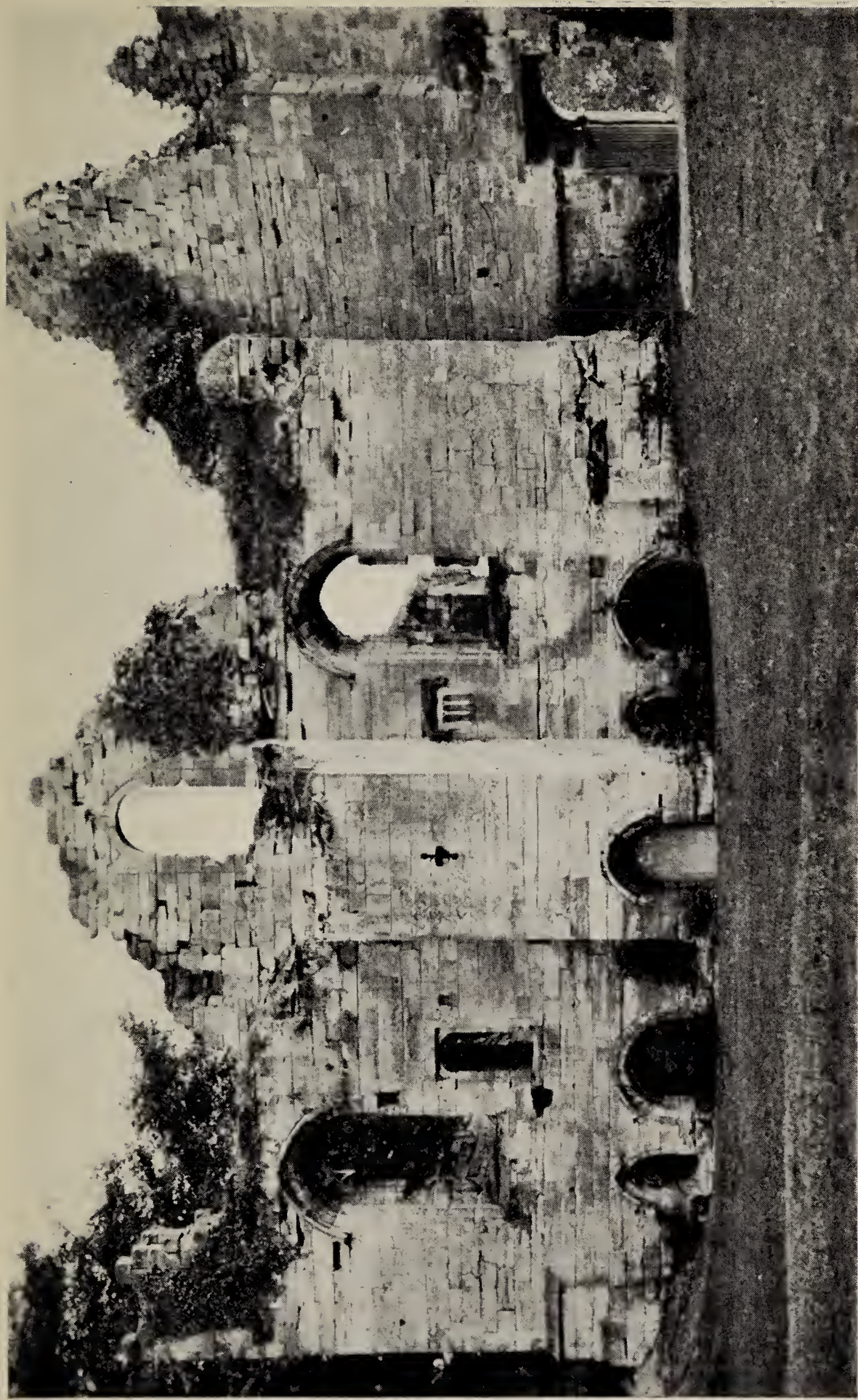
"With that fond gaze my eye pursues,
Needwood, thy sweetly varying views !
Satyr or Nymph or sylvan god,
A fairer circuit never trod !
Charm'd as I turn, thy pictures seem
The golden fabricks of a dream,
Where fiction stands with prism bright,
Rays forth her many colour'd light,
Dyes the green herb and purple flower,
Gives glittering lustres to the shower ;
Then gilds with livelier tints the sky
Or bends her radiant bow on high." . . .

"To scenes so elegantly wild
Fancy of old, her darling child,
From Avon's flowery margin brought,
And Arden boasts what Needwood taught.
Down yon mid-vale the British Nile,
Fair Dove, comes winding many a mile ;
And from his copious urn distils
The fatness of a thousand hills." . . .

"With awful sorrow I behold
Yon cliff that frowns with ruins old,*
Stout Ferrers there kept faithless ward†

* Ruins of Tutbury Castle. The Castle was destroyed by Cromwell's armies, during the time of the Civil War (Charles I).

† Robert de Ferrers who joined Simon de Montfort in the Barons War against Henry III.



RUINS OF TUTBURY CASTLE

BARTON, TUTBURY, AND NEEDWOOD FOREST

And Gaunt performed his castle guard ;
The captive Mary looked in vain
For Norfolk and her nuptial train ;
Enriched with royal tears the Dove,
And sighed for freedom, not from love.”*

. 1135702

In 1801, by Act of Parliament, the Forest was enclosed, allotted, and divided among the adjoining parishes. The trees were cut down, and the ground prepared for the cultivation of wheat, the price of which was high at that time, owing to the continental wars then taking place.

The beautiful woodland was not, however, entirely destroyed. Fragments still remain, the most considerable of these being in the neighbourhood of Marchington.

To-day when wandering for about a mile from the village of Barton, on the road to Yoxall, a cluster of cottages is seen, called “ Barton Gate,” standing on a spot where evidently at one time stood one of the gates of the old Forest. People living here still speak of living “ on the Forest,” though there is no trace of forest left, but merely open country.

* This poem, extracts only of which are given here, is printed in *Shaw's History*, I, pp. 68-70.

III

THE HOLLANDS OF BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

(continued)

THE facts relating to Richard de Holland, told in the opening chapter, belong to the reign of Edward II, the most noteworthy being the part he took in the Earl of Lancaster's rebellion against the King.

The next particulars with regard to him belong to the reign of Edward III. Thus, to begin with, the following Rental of Barton, taken in the first year of Edward III's reign, specifies the amount of land he held :

(From Rentals and Surveys, Duchy of Lancaster Special Commissions. P.R.O.)

Roll 602. Rental of Barton—I Edward III. (1327.)

*Free tenants include :—

* “ Free tenant ” meant that he held the land specified under this heading “ freely ” of the lord of the manor, and not by servile tenure. It was his, to pass on to his heirs. The sums named in the Rental were charges on this land.

He also held copy-hold land, as a “ tenant at will.” It is interesting to note that the labour or “ boon-works ” due for this land had, in his case, been commuted for a money payment. These were Feudal times, when in theory, at any rate, all land belonged to the King, and was

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

Richard de Holand—	1 messuage and $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land. Rent ...	6d.
do.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ acres which belonged to Margery la Dene, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. pepper or ...	7d.
do.	20 acres of new assart	1d.
do.	24 acres of old assart ...	8s.
do.	Some acres purchased from Agnes Attebourne	18s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
He was also a tenant at will, having 1 acre of old assart, and 2 acres of new assart		
	and in lieu of boon works	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.

In addition to the land held in the above Rental, Richard held land in Barton, that belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Merevale in Warwickshire, built and endowed by an Earl de Ferrers in the 12th century. A Plea Roll, dated the second year of Edward III's reign, states that the Abbot of Merevale sued Richard de Holland for non-payment for two years of rent for a messuage and an acre of land in Barton, which the Abbot claimed in right of the Abbey.*

During the first years of Edward III's reign, Parliament voted two subsidy grants to meet the

parcelled out among the great lords in return for military service, while they in their turn parcelled it out for service, military or otherwise.

A "Virgate" was usually thirty acres of land, in scattered strips.

"Messuage" = dwelling-house.

"Assart" was woodland that had been cleared, in order to bring the land into tillage.

* *S.H.C.*, XI, p. 7. The monks could not cultivate all their endowed land, and what they could not cultivate they let to tenants.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

expenses of the Scottish War. Richard de Holland's name appears in both the lists of those at Barton made chargeable for these taxes.*

In Shaw's History, his name occurs often with the names of other residents of the neighbourhood, as witness to various deeds. Thus, for instance, in a deed relating to a grant of land from Thomas de Rolleston, Knt., to Herbert de Ferrers, we read among the names of the several witnesses the following: "Sir William le Blunt, Philip de Somerville, Rese app Griffith, John de Mynors, Richard de Holland of Barton," etc.†

Of these, Sir William le Blunt was steward of the honour of Tutbury, at the time of witnessing the deed.

Philip de Somerville was the last of the Somerville Lords of Wichnor.

Rese app Griffith succeeded eventually to the Somerville inheritance, in right of his wife, who was the elder daughter of Philip de Somerville.

John de Mynors was Master Forester of Needwood Forest. He took part with Richard de Holland in the battle of Burton Bridge, and with him helped to break down the bridge of Wichnor, to impede the passage of the King (Edward II).

The last mention we have of Richard de Holland occurs in the sixteenth year of the reign of Edward

* *S.H.C.*, VII, p. 224, and V, p. 106.

† Vol I, p. 113.

III. Here, in acting as witness to a deed, his son's name also appears :

“ Richard de Holland and Richard his son were two of several witnesses to a charter relating to property in Dunstall, made by Sir Philip de Somervill, Knt., Lord of Whichnor to Hugh de Newbold, dated at Whichnor, Thursday next after the feast of St. Martin, the 16th of Ed. III (A.D. 1343).”*

In the tenth year of the reign of Richard II, 1387 (some forty years after the date of the above deed), the Jury in a View of Frankpledge found that Richard Holland of Barton was feloniously murdered at night on the Feast of St. John the Baptist by his wife Joan, and Thomas Graunger, an armourer. An inventory of the deceased man's goods was drawn up to decide as to their disposition, for the widow's share (one third) was now forfeited, and went by law to the Lord of the Manor.† This case was heard again, many years afterwards, at Lichfield,‡ when Henry V, in 1414, came to examine into the great state of lawlessness which had been for some time prevalent in Staffordshire, due to the unsettled condition of the country, arising from the constant wars at home and abroad. The number of assaults, robberies, murders, burnings, etc., committed, both by gentle and simple, is almost incredible, and the Plea Rolls of that time tell a

* Shaw's *History*, I, p. 111.

† *History of Tatenhill*, I, pp. 103 and 168.

‡ *S.H.C.*, XVII, pp. 4-7.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

harrowing tale of the disordered state existing. It was upon receiving news of this that Henry V came, himself, to Lichfield, soon after his accession to the throne, and spent over two months in deciding complaints, and in hearing every kind of case that was brought to him, including the murder of Richard Holland.

The main information we have of the Hollands, from the reign of Richard II until Tudor times, is gathered from the Barton Court Rolls, which record all the proceedings that took place at the Manor and Forest Courts, (the latter called "Woodmotes"). In these Court Rolls, the Hollands are named continuously as Jurors and as Affertories (the latter meaning those who fixed the fines imposed at the Courts), and they appear, too, as offenders.*

Offences against the forest laws formed a great part of the litigation of this forest neighbourhood in far-off days. The forest laws were very severe, and all trespass against them was dealt with at the Woodmotes, held annually at one of the four lodges of Needwood Forest.

Reading through the list of offenders in the Court Rolls of the Woodmotes, we note such names as the Abbot of Burton, the Rector of Tatenhill, Robert Curzon of Croxall, Thomas Gresley of Drakelow,

* The Court Rolls of the Woodmotes and of the Barton Manor Courts have been transcribed by Sir R. Hardy, Bart., from 1336 (9 Ed. III) to the period of Henry VIII, and are printed in Vol. II of *A History of Tatenhill*.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

Roger Horton of Catton, Philip de Somerville of Wichnor, and others. Going back to the days of the first Richard Holland of Barton, we read in the Court Roll of a Woodmote held about 1336, that he was fined 6d. for taking away a cart load of old undergrowth (“*vjd pro j carectata veteris busce*”). At another Woodmote, a similar sum was imposed on William atte Wode for cutting off old undergrowth at the gate of Richard de Holland (“*vjd amputatione veteris busce juxta portam Ricardi de Holond*”).* This William atte Wode was the Reeve of Barton who, in 1313, notified at Tutbury the sum that had been delivered to Richard de Holland, Instaurarius of the Peak.

While the primary consideration with regard to the levying of fines was to do justice and preserve order, these fines also helped, in far-off days, towards the support of the revenue, as there were no taxes then. In the case of the Manor Courts, they were a part of the revenue of the Lord of the Manor. This pecuniary advantage of the fines would, no doubt, help to keep vigilant the look-out made for offenders against the law. The levying of fines seems to have begun in the reign of Henry III, and modern taxation grew out of them.

In the reign of Henry VIII, Barton was brought for a brief period into close touch with what was taking place at that time in the affairs of the nation

* *History of Tatenhill*, II, pp. 21 and 23.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

through the following circumstance : In 1538 (29 Henry VIII), the Pope, Paul IV, published a Bull excommunicating Henry for his heretical opinions. He then endeavoured to induce the Emperor Charles V, and Francis, King of France, to put this Bull into execution. Henry and his Privy Council were seriously alarmed, and ordered a muster to be made of the entire armed force of the Kingdom. The levies were never called up, for Henry by his diplomacy managed to disconcert the project of the Pope.

Among the names of those appearing in the Muster Roll taken at Barton (describing also, how they were equipped) are the following :*

“ Richard Holland :—horse harnes, bill able.†

“ Richard Holland the younger :—gesturne, salet, splentes, bill without horse.

“ Roger Holland :—a bowe without horse or harnes able.

“ William and Nicholas Holland :—billmen without horse or harness. ”

After the building of Barton Church by John

* Muster Roll, Staffordshire, A.D. 1539, *S.H.C.*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 215.

† Harnes or Harness meant any kind of armour, and was not the modern contracted sense of the word as referring to the horse. It probably combined all kinds of defensible armour.

A bill was a pike with a long handle and a spearhead with a billhook, which was used to drag a man off a horse. In the reign of Henry VIII, the pike was often 18 feet in length.

A gesturne was a jacket without sleeves, on which were fastened small oblong plates of steel over-lapping one another.

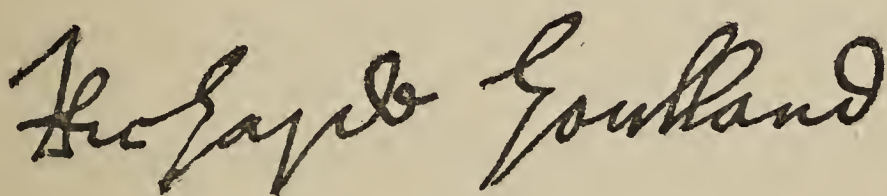
A salet was a light steel cap with a projection behind, extending over the nape of the neck.

Splentes or splints were armour for the arms, where these were left unprotected by the gesturne.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

Taylor, D.D., in the reign of Henry VIII, alluded to in the last chapter, the Hollands are named continually as Churchwardens. (The Church was completed in 1533, according to a date in the E. window, therefore not long before John Taylor's death, which occurred the year following.)

A parochial record of the time of Edward VI, dated May 1553, gives an interesting inventory of the Church ornaments of Barton, and a Richard Holland is named as one of the two Churchwardens.* Doubtless he is the same who, four years later, (1557, 4 Mary), is mentioned in connection with a survey made of the Tutbury lordship. The enquiry relating to Barton was held at Yoxall, and a "Richard Holland, Gentleman," is named as one of the Jury. His signature appears :†

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard Holland". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Richard" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the surname "Holland".

Thus the knowledge we have of the family up to this period enables us to see them as active members of the Barton community, while their attention would at the same time be occupied with the care and cultivation of their land.

In 1639 (14 Charles I) a William Holland died,

* S.H.C., Vol. 1915. p. 277.

† *Duchy of Lancaster Depositions*, LXXVI, R, 8.

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who left by his will land for the use of the Poor at Barton, and 40s. to purchase bread for the said Poor, on the day of his funeral. He also left instructions that he should be buried "in the Chapel, in the sepulchre among his ancestors."

In 1669-70 (temp. Charles II) Barton was visited for the purpose of the Hearth Tax, instituted at that time, and shortly afterwards abolished. Reading through the list of those made chargeable for their hearths, the names of four representatives of Holland households in Barton are given, viz. : a Mrs. Holland (widow), a Richard, a William, and again a William Holland.*

One of the two latter was presumably the William Holland of that time, made trustee of "Key's Charity," whose son Thomas left Barton in the next reign (that of James II), to live at Rugeley in the neighbourhood of Cannock Chase. His wife was a native of Rugeley.

In course of time their eldest surviving son, William, married, and after remaining for a few years longer at Rugeley, removed with his family farther north, to Admaston, a hamlet in the parish of Blithfield, where he became a tenant of Lord Bagot. Blithfield lay on the western border of Needwood Forest.

William Holland's descendants have served with distinction in the Army and in the Church. Among

* *S.H.C.*, Vol. 1923, pp. 236-7.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

the latter should be mentioned the Rev. Wm. Lyall Holland, Rector of Cornhill-on-Tweed and Canon of Newcastle, and his three sons, the latter all well-known in connection with the C.M.S.

Of these, the Rev. Wm. Holland, and Dr. Henry Tristram Holland, C.I.E. (Medical Mission), have worked for many years in India, while the youngest son, Herbert St. Barbe Holland, Archdeacon of Warwick, was for some time Secretary at home for the C.M.S.

The family living at Barton to-day have among their forebears a Richard Holland and his son Richard, both living in the time of Charles II. One of them would doubtless, then, be he of that name mentioned in the list of those who paid to the Hearth Tax.

The grandfather of the present family, also named Richard (1791-1866), succeeded unexpectedly to the family property in 1826, on the death of his uncle, the previous holder ; another nephew, Charles Ashby Holland,* who should have succeeded, having recently died.

Richard Holland's home had always been at Tissington in Derbyshire, a beautiful village near to Dovedale, famed for its picturesque ceremony of Wells dressing which takes place each year on Ascension Day. This ceremony, which had fallen somewhat into disuse, was revived by Richard's

* Referred to in the " Foreword."

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father, one of the five Wells, now called the Town Well, being for a time called the "Holland" Well. Here, or in the neighbourhood of Ashbourne, not many miles away, Richard Holland and his family continued still to live, the home at Barton being in the meantime, and for some considerable period after this, occupied by kinsfolk.

Richard Holland's eldest son, William Richard, who for so many years afterwards practised as a solicitor at Ashbourne, when serving his articles at Lichfield, used often to spend a Sunday at Barton, attending its Church, and occupying the old high family pew where so many generations before him had worshipped. This old square pew stood in the centre of the Church, and went by Will with the property. Some years later when the aisles were being widened, and the Church renovated, his consent was necessary for the removal of this pew, and at the request of the Churchwardens he relinquished his right to it. It may here be mentioned that during the renovation of Barton Church, when the stone pillars were being stripped of the plaster which covered them, "William Holland 1617" was found roughly carved on a pillar near to the belfry gallery, obviously the work of a not too devout member of the family, who, seated in the gallery of that time, occupied himself thus during the service. The inscription can still be seen.

It now remains to give some account of William



DOVEDALE

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

Richard Holland before bringing this record of his family to a close.

Practically the whole of his life was connected with Ashbourne, where for many years he lived an extraordinarily busy life. In addition to his practice there of Solicitor, he filled many public offices, and associated himself with whatever was taking place in the neighbourhood and in the county of Derby.

Side by side with all these activities, he had his own private interests and pursuits. He was a profound Latin Scholar, and spent a considerable amount of time in translating, and in writing Latin verse. When he arranged the purchase of the farms around Alsop-en-le-Dale, Dovedale, for Sir Henry Allsopp, the first Lord Hindlip, nothing delighted him more than to translate the deeds, relating to their early ownership, drawn up by the monks, centuries ago, and written in old and abbreviated Latin, often so exceedingly minute, that he was compelled to use a magnifying glass to decipher them. He was always proud to be able to say that he had not been beaten by a single word. He translated them, first into modern Latin, and then into English.

A keen archæologist, and a prominent member of the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Archæological Societies, his advice and information were often sought, and many articles by him appear in the

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Journal of the Derbyshire Archæological Society.
He was interested in all matters antiquarian, and his researches into the past history of his family form the basis of this Record.

He was a prominent Freemason, and in 1869 at the age of thirty-four, was made Provincial Senior Grand Warden of Derbyshire, a rank held later by his son. He was a leading Churchman in the diocese of Lichfield, as well as that of Southwell, and for thirty-five years was Vicar's warden of Ashbourne Parish Church, holding office under five Vicars. One of these, the Rev. Francis Jourdain, was his close personal friend.

The beautiful ancient Parish Church, with its tall slender spire, known as the Pride of the Peak, stands in almost cathedral-like proportions at the western end of the town. The musical peal of its bells will vibrate for all time in Moore's verses, *Those Evening Bells*, written when the poet was living at Mayfield Cottage, two miles away, and heard the bells, as their sound was wafted to him on the breeze.

It was soon after William Richard Holland had become established at Ashbourne as a Solicitor, that Captain Frederick Holland, R.N., of the Cheshire branch of the Upholland family, purchased Ashbourne Hall, the one-time home of the Cokaynes and Boothbys. Captain Holland's health had broken down, after long service in the Navy, but



ASHBOURNE CHURCH

from the time that he came to live at the Hall until his death in 1860, he employed all his remaining energies in matters affecting the welfare of the town and district. He was an active magistrate, and held the office of Churchwarden at the Parish Church.

At the beginning of the great Volunteer Movement in 1859, Captain Holland took a leading part in the formation of the Company at Ashbourne, first known as the Dove Valley Corps. Among those who joined was William Richard Holland, then aged twenty-four. Captain Holland carried on this work in spite of constant illness until the following year, 1860, the year of his death. When this occurred, how universally he was regretted, and how deep an impression he had made on the Ashbourne community by his life, can be gathered from the fact that the whole town seemed in mourning ; shops were closed down, and blinds were drawn.

On the day of Captain Holland's funeral, William Richard Holland wrote the following lines. (It was a favourite pursuit of his to express himself in verse, when stirred by some scene or incident.)

“ From this his chosen sphere,
 One has departed,
 Who, whilst he sojourned here
 Laboured, true hearted.

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Earnest in everything,
All that he undertook,
Constant, he ne'er forsook,
Always endeavouring
Till he succeeded.
Sought to the public good,
Advanced he whene'er he could,
Never receded.

" Few were the years he'd spent
Here, when he left us ;
Yet it seemed, when he went,
Death had bereft us
Of a friend tried and true,
Dear was he unto all,
By rich, poor, great, and small.
More, as they more him knew
Loved and respected :
Swerving from probity
Him, e'en an enemy
Never detected.

" Unto each useful plan,
Designed, promoted,
To raise his fellow man
He was devoted.
Largely benevolent,
Good deeds he ne'er deferred ;
And if he ever erred,
'Twas with a good intent
Acting sincerely,
Christian in heart and mind,
Unto God's will resigned,
Called to die early.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

“ With service on our seas
Weakened and wearied,
Hither he came for ease—
Here he lies buried.
He sought no selfish rest ;
Though he was always ill,
Yet he was working still,
Onwards he ever pressed ;
Nothing could turn him :—
Thus did he honour gain,
His loss we feel with pain,
Deeply we mourn him ! ”

William Richard Holland married, in 1864, a daughter of Samuel Healing, J.P., of Tewkesbury, and had five daughters and one son. He lived at Ashbourne until 1902 (the year following his wife's death), when he moved with his family to Barton.

This did not mean the giving up of his practice and interests in Ashbourne. On the contrary he journeyed to and fro continually, up to the very day before his death, which occurred at Holland House, Barton, on Sunday, January 24th, 1915, in his 80th year.

An obituary notice which appeared in an Ashbourne paper described him as follows : “ He retained the courteous manner which characterised the Victorian period, and his geniality was a noticeable feature, when in his company. His tall, handsome and stately presence will long be missed,

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

and Ashbourne has lost one of the most striking personalities it ever possessed."

A few years before his death he gave for the West window of Barton Church its fine stained glass four-light martyrdom design, in memory of his parents, Richard and Anne Holland, buried at Tissington in Derbyshire.

Of his family who survive to-day (three daughters, and his son) his eldest daughter still lives at Barton. She has long been President of the Women's Institute, and for many years was Poor Law Guardian and District Councillor. In 1923 she was made a Justice of the Peace for the County of Stafford.

Her next sister married Dr. Ernest Sadler of Ashbourne, and their home, known as "The Mansion," stands not far from the Church. This house has a special interest of its own, having been frequently visited by the great Dr. Johnson, whose friend, Dr. Taylor, lived there. It is frequently mentioned in Boswell's *Life of Johnson*.

William Richard Holland's only son Richard married the daughter of the Rev. F. S. Boissier, Vicar of Denby, near Derby. Since his marriage he has lived at Ashbourne, where he carries on his father's practice of Solicitor, and fills, besides, many public offices. He was recently Under-Sheriff for the County of Derby.



Photo by Winter, Derby.

PORTRAITS OF THREE GENERATIONS OF DERBYSHIRE FREEMASONRY
(W. R. HOLLAND, CENTRE,—HIS FATHER AND SON)

Reprinted from the Freemason's Calendar for Derbyshire, 1912-13.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD

Copy of a letter, dated April 1902, written by W. R. Holland, of Barton and Ashbourne, and addressed to Walter Holland, of Liverpool (belonging to the Cheshire branch of the Holland family), upon receiving from him a copy of "The Hollands of Mobberley and Knutsford."

"ST. JOHN'S HOUSE,

"ASHBOURNE.

"April 24th, 1902.

"DEAR MR. HOLLAND,

"I must offer you my warmest thanks for the very handsome and most interesting book which you have so kindly sent me. That I am related to you through descent from a common and famous stock, I do not doubt; but centuries count for very little in tracing the branches of our ancient and historical family. I am the head and representative of the Barton-under-Needwood Hollands, who have always been there since the early part of the 14th century; and we claim descent from Richard de Holland who was living at Barton in A.D. 1314, who is mentioned in many public records. My patrimonial estate is at Barton, and our old family residence there is called Holland House.

"My father's name was Richard Holland, likewise his father. The typical stature of the men of our family is 5 ft. 10 ins. to 6 ft. 1 in. I am just 6 ft.; sixty-seven years old, and pretty active for my age. I have a son, Richard, who has shot up to 6 ft. 4 ins. We have a typical Holland head, which I noticed in several of the portraits in the beautiful History of your Branch of the Race. I have no doubt that Richard de Holland of Barton went from Lancashire into Staffordshire. He was probably an adherent of Thomas Earl of Lancaster, who was a good deal at the Castle of Tutbury near Barton.

"There is no trace of the name of Holland in Staffordshire or Derbyshire earlier than the beginning of the 14th century. This Earl of Lancaster is mentioned in the first chapter of your book (at page 10). Richard de Holland was

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punished for breaking down some bridges in Staffordshire, while assisting the rebellious Earl of Lancaster against King Edward II. The judgments are extant. . . . I call him Richard Holland the Bridge Breaker. The manor of Yoxall, a parish which adjoins Barton, belonged about the same time to the Sir Robert de Holland from whom the ennobled Hollands sprang. I cannot make out the exact relationship of the two, but the pedigree of Holland in Croston's book on Samlesbury names several Richard Hollands who were relatives of Sir Robert, and either contemporary, or nearly so, with him.

“ My ancestors figure in the taxation rolls of Edward III, as being at Barton-under-Needwood, and in County documents and public records, the name has appeared from time to time ever since. The parish registers from the time of Elizabeth contain many entries relating to the family. I have a mass of notes and references to books and records, but I have never as yet reduced them to shape. It will be a heavy task to do so, but I hope to accomplish something of the kind before I am gathered to my Fathers. I have never been very keen on minute details of pedigree, but have felt content in the consciousness of belonging to an ancient race of men, and of bearing an honoured name. I think, however, that there might be formed an association of all persons bearing the name, which should collect and preserve records of every known branch of the Holland family.

“ I knew Captain Herbert Holland mentioned at page 82 of your book. He had the Holland head. I also well knew Captain Frederick, R.N. (page 81) who lived and died at Ashbourne Hall, and was buried in our Churchyard here. The date of his death is wrongly stated in the book. He was certainly living in 1860, and in 1859 he took a very active part in the great volunteer movement. My family have always claimed the arms of Holland, ancient, as given in the Calais Roll and the books on heraldry, but for centuries my ancestors have been quiet country gentlemen, not wealthy,

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and unostentatious. There were Hollands of some importance in North Wales, for some hundreds of years, serving as Sheriffs of Denbyshire, and they had a seat in Anglesea. I picked up some annals relating to them lately, in some books I met with in a London library. They became allied with a family of Williams, and you would find tombs in Conway Church with our "lion rampant guardant" cut upon the stone in relief. Both Tutbury Castle and Barton-under-Needwood are within the Duchy of Lancaster, hence the easy connection between Upholland and Barton. Moreover, in the 14th century Wigan and Upholland were under the Bishop of Lichfield, and the records of the founding of Upholland Priory by Sir Robert de Holland are still preserved in Lichfield Cathedral, eight miles from Barton.*

"This discursive letter has extended already to an inordinate length, but in conclusion I must again thank you for the valuable and very beautiful book which you have presented to me.

"Believe me,

"Very truly yours,

"WM. RICHARD HOLLAND.†

"To Walter Holland, Esq.,
21, Water Street, Liverpool."

* Southern Lancashire, with Upholland, was once a part of Mercia and continued in the Mercian Bishopric of Lichfield until the time of the Reformation.

† Much of the information concerning Richard de Holland, given in the foregoing pages, has been acquired since the date of this letter. The late Dr. Wm. Farrer read this letter with interest and requested that he might have a copy to place in his own volume of *The Hollands of Mobberley and Knutsford*.

PART II

THE HOLLANDS OF UPHOLLAND

THE HOLLANDS OF UPHOLLAND

I

SIR ROBERT DE HOLLAND

“Sir Robert laid the basis of the fortunes of a noble house, on the favour of Thomas of Lancaster.”

V. C. H. LANCS. Vol. II, p. 111.

THE Hollands, whose history is recorded in these pages, originated many centuries ago in Upholland, Lancashire, a village or small township in the parish of Wigan in the Hundred of West Derby. The Hollands derived their name from this, their early home.

Although Upholland is now part of a coal-mining district, nevertheless its situation, with its old Church by the side of a hill, enables us to picture the fair place it must have been in far-off days.

Mr. Cheetham, in his book about Lancashire, describes Upholland as even now the least spoilt district of the Wigan coal-field. From it is seen a wide stretch of distant view, extending to the Cumberland and Westmoreland hills in one direction, and to the Derbyshire hills in another, while

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

around the old-world town or village itself a quaint charm and fascination hangs.

The earliest mention of a Holland of Upholland occurs in the reign of John in a Final Concord, made at the Lancashire Assizes, dated November 5th, 1202, in which Uchtred de Chryche, who seems to have had some right in the manor of Upholland, releases his right in fourteen oxgangs* of land to Matthew de Holland, in consideration of the sum of six marks of silver. Thus was planted the Holland Tree, all the early information of which is found in *The Victoria County History of Lancaster*.

As time went on, the family acquired more land, and with this, increased position. Thus, in the reign of Edward I, a Robert de Holland, son of Thurstan, son of Robert, became possessed of the manor of Orrell adjoining Upholland and of the lordship of Hale in the parish of Childwall, and, through marriage with Elizabeth de Samlesbury (co-heiress of Sir Wm. de Samlesbury of Samlesbury, Hall, near to Preston), of the moiety of that manor.†

* An oxgang signified the amount of land that could be ploughed by one ox in one day.

† *V.C.H. Lancs.* IV, 92. *The History of the Ancient Hall of Samlesbury*, by James Croston, is the story of the Hollands, and the Southworths, descendants of Sir Wm. de Samlesbury's two daughters, Elizabeth and Cecily. The Ven. John Southworth, who, in 1654, was executed at Tyburn for his religious views, was a descendant of the Southworths of Samlesbury, Lancashire. Following the execution, his body was conveyed to France. Recently (in 1928) the bones of the martyr were discovered at Douai, and sent back to England for interment at St. Edmund's College, Ware, Herts.

SIR ROBERT DE HOLLAND

This Robert de Holland, son of Thurstan, received Knighthood in the reign of Edward I, as did also his brother William, ancestor of that branch of the family which later migrated to Cheshire. Belonging to this branch are such noteworthy personages as Mrs. Gaskell, the talented authoress, her mother being a Holland of this branch, Sir Henry Holland, Physician to Queen Victoria, and his two sons, the first Viscount Knutsford, and Canon Francis Holland ; Sir Henry's grandson (the present Lord Knutsford), Canon Scott Holland, etc. Captain Frederick Holland, R.N., late of Ashbourne Hall, Derbyshire, may also be mentioned here.*

Sir Robert de Holland, Secretary to the Earl of Lancaster, was the eldest son of the above-named Robert de Holland and Elizabeth of Samlesbury. He became a member of the Earl's household early in his career. The position he at first held was a small one,† but winning high favour with his Chief, this soon changed. Wealth and privileges were bestowed upon him. His relations with the Earl became closer and more intimate, until finally he

* Particulars of this branch form the subject of *The Hollands of Mobberley and Knutsford*, edited by W. F. Irvine, and alluded to by W. R. Holland in his letter to Mr. Walter Holland of Liverpool. It was printed for private distribution in 1902. Mr. Bernard Holland in *The Lancashire Hollands* (1917), gives particulars of this branch, of which he was a member.

† Dugdale.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

was the Earl's Secretary, and is alluded to as "Lancaster's principal Councillor."

His association with the Earl must have begun before 1300, for by that date he was already enjoying favour.*

His father died about that time, whereupon Sir Robert succeeded to the family lands at Upholland, etc.

In 1307 occurred the death of Edward I, and Edward II became King.

In the following year (1308), Sir Robert was present at a tournament held at Dunstable. His name appears in the list headed "Cest la Retenaunce du Comte de Lancestre." The Arms that he bore on this occasion were "Az : semé of fleurs de lys, a lion rampant guardant Ar."†

In the same year, Sir Robert, through the interest of the Earl of Lancaster, received from the Crown large territorial grants, viz. : the manors of Melbourne, Newton, Osmundeston (Osmaston), Swarkeston, Chelardiston (Chellaston), Normanton, and Wyveleston, all in the County of Derby.‡

Again in that year (1308) he had licence to crenelate (embattle) his dwelling-house at Upholland in Lancashire.‡‡

* *Cal. of Close Rolls* (1296-1302, p. 365).

† *S.H.C.*, 1913, p. 283 and *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica* IV. See pp. 67 and 389.

‡ *Cal. Pat.*, 1307-13, p. 65.

‡‡ *Cal. Pat.*, 1307-17, p. 57.

He was Justice of Chester several times between 1307 and 1320, a position of consequence in those days.

The Earl's favour enabled him to make a great marriage with Maud, the younger of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Alan, Lord de la Zouch of Ashby (Co. Leicester). By this marriage he acquired much territory in the midland counties, including the manor of Brackley, Northants,* and he was given the patronage of Lilishull Abbey, Co. Salop.

He continued to receive from the Earl gifts of territory, as for instance the manor of Yoxall, Co. Stafford, already mentioned, near to Barton, with the advowson of its church.†

It has been told how, in 1312, he aided his Chief in the Barons' rebellion against the King and his favourite, Gaveston. The Earls of Lancaster, Pembroke and Warwick were the principal leaders in this conspiracy, which led to Gaveston being seized and put to death on Blacklow Hill, near Warwick.

This seems the moment to say a word about that powerful Baron of vast possessions, Thomas, the great Earl of Lancaster, first cousin to Edward II, who played so prominent a part in establishing the career and fortune of Sir Robert de Holland, and

* *Rolls of Parl.*, Vol. I, p. 426, and *Cal. Pat.*, 1313-17, p. 226.

† *Cal. Pat.*, 1317-21, p. 431.

in moulding the destiny of Richard de Holland of Barton. With him, the great dominion of Lancaster became still further increased by his marriage with Alice, daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln.*

While Edmund Crouchback, his father, had always remained the trusted and faithful servant of his elder brother, Edward I, Earl Thomas proved far otherwise to his cousin, the next ruling King, aspiring to an influence in the Kingdom proportionate to his birth and territorial position. The King (Edward II) chose, instead, to give his confidence to favourites. Earl Thomas allowed his resentment to hurry him into a violence which he had not the ability to carry through.

His efforts, however, were at first successful. Gaveston, the hated favourite, was seized and executed. Two years later (1314), following the great defeat of the English at the battle of Bannockburn, when the country's confidence in the King was lost, the Earl's power stood for a time supreme.†

Sir Robert received with others the Royal pardon for his share in the Rebellion against Gaveston.‡ He was summoned to Parliament as a Baron (Lord

* Included in this additional territory acquired through his marriage with Alice de Lacy, was Bolingbroke in Lincolnshire, later to become the birthplace of the first Lancastrian King of England, Henry IV.

† It was in the December of 1314 that Richard de Holland of Barton received the Earl's grant of forest privileges in Needwood.

‡ *Cal Pat.*, 1313-17, p. 21.

Holland) from July 1314 to May 1321, by writs directed *Roberto de Holand*.

In 1321 he procured from the Earl an alteration in the tenure of Upholland, which does not seem to have been permanent. The Charter which records this alteration reads as follows :

“ Thomas Earl of Lancaster by his charter grants to Robert de Holland and Maud his wife the manors of Upholland, Hale, etc. . . . to hold of the chief lord by the service of distributing each year for the said Earl’s soul on the day of St. Thomas the Martyr, and at Christmas, to the poor folk coming to the manor of Upholland, twenty heaped-up measures of wheated flour, and ox, swine, and calf’s flesh to the value of £10 . . . and providing each year on the said day, a repast of two courses for 240 poor persons, in the Hall of Upholland, to be served on dishes after the manner of gentlefolk, and of providing a repast of one course the following day for the same poor persons, giving 4d. to each, or a pair of shoes on departing.”*

In 1322 took place the second Rebellion against the King and a new group of favourites, the Despensers, who had replaced Gaveston in the King’s affection. The Earl of Lancaster was the chief leader on this occasion. This Rebellion, with its opening battle at the bridge of Burton (already alluded to in connection with Richard de Holland of Barton), needs to be more fully dealt with here, on account of the part played in it by Sir Robert as well as by his Chief. Sir Oswald Mosley writes in his *History of Tutbury* :

“ To quench the Rebellion of the Earl and his confederate

* *Cal. Pat.*, 1317-21, p. 555.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

Barons, the King acted with much more decision and promptitude than usual. He lost no time in taking possession of the towns, castles and manors of his adversaries. The success which attended him daily increased the number of his adherents.

“The Earl of Lancaster was at Pontefract, awaiting reinforcements from the King of Scotland (Robert Bruce) between whom and himself a secret correspondence had been going on for some time. There he was joined by other Barons. So great, however, was the success attending the royal armies, that further delay was rendered impossible. Already the King was moving northwards from Coventry. The Earl’s extensive estates in the Midland counties lay entirely at the King’s mercy. A decisive blow must be struck at once, or the great source whence he (the Earl) drew his supplies would be cut off. To prevent this, he set out with 30,000 men to intercept the royal armies.

“He reached his Castle of Tutbury, in Staffordshire, in the beginning of March 1322, having despatched Sir Robert de Holland, upon whom he placed great confidence, to collect reinforcements out of the North, with which he was directed to join him as speedily as possible.”

The following account of the battle of Burton Bridge is taken from an old Chronicle of a Monk of Malmesbury, being probably the oldest, and therefore the most authentic account of the battle which exists :*

“The King led his army from Coventry to a large river called Trent. There is over it a large bridge which affords a passage to travellers.† The King sent forward to the bridge-head a strong wedge of men-at-arms and foot soldiers, wishing to know if anyone was blocking his passage. But

* Translated from *Chronica et Ed. II*, by Sir R. Hardy.

† The old bridge of Burton, which crossed the Trent, was long and narrow and consisted of thirty-six arches.

SIR ROBERT DE HOLLAND

the Earl of Lancaster with all his retinue had entered the town of Burghtone from the side. When it was discovered that the King purposed to cross the river, the Earl sent a brave company of armed men and foot to defend the bridge." (Richard de Holland of Barton assisted, as we know, in this defence.) "For three or four days they skirmished, and on each morrow returned to the same sort of warfare. The King found a ford, higher up stream,* where he and the rest of the army crossed. The Barons, hearing and actually seeing that the King had crossed the river, abandoned the bridge, mounted and fled. Why fled the Earl of Lancaster, who so often stood up against the King, the more so as he had with him the Earl of Hereford, and the picked soldiery of all England? In truth the King's hand was heavy and powerful, for he had, all told, 300,000 men. The King pursued the fugitives to Tutbury Castle, held by Lancaster; found the gates open, because after the flight of the Earl, no one dared to resist."

The Earl had fled, there being no other course open to him, for Sir Robert de Holland's anxiously awaited reinforcements had failed to arrive. The only hope lay in returning as speedily as possible to Pontefract, to be within reach of his northern ally, the King of Scotland. Accordingly a hasty retreat was made across the river Dove, which winds its way at the foot of the Castle hill, dividing Staffordshire from Derbyshire.

This river, not usually of great width, is recorded to have been at the time swollen by heavy rain. In crossing it, it is supposed at a ford just below the

* At Walton, on the Derbyshire border of the Trent. Barton lies about a mile from Walton, on the Staffordshire border.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

present bridge, the Earl lost a large part of his treasure in the bed of the river. It was commonly said that he hid it there,* but it seems unlikely that he would choose a place whence recovery would be so difficult. At any rate, no attempt to recover it seems ever to have been made. It is far more likely that the horses conveying the wagons were swept off their feet in the current of the river. The treasure lay hidden in the bed of the river Dove for over five centuries, and then, in June 1831, it was accidentally discovered.

A highly interesting account of this discovery was written and published soon afterwards by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A., and reprinted in the *Burton Chronicle* of May 10th, 1903. From this article it appears that the discovery was made by some workmen employed by Mr. Webb of the cotton mills, who in prolonging an embankment between the mill stream and the river, were wheeling gravel out of the stream, and found several small pieces of silver coin about 60 yards below the bridge. As they proceeded up the river, more were found, and this continued for a week, until on June 8th they discovered the grand deposit of coins from which the others had been washed, about thirty yards below the bridge, and from four to five feet below the surface of the gravel.

So abundant were the coins that 150 were

* Masefield's *Staffordshire*.

turned up in a single shovelful of gravel, and two individuals on that day collected nearly 5,000 between them. They were sold to bystanders for from 6s. to 8s. 6d. per 1,000, but less being found the next day, the price rose. Of course the news spread, and people went to Tutbury from Derby, and much further afield, to search, until as many as 300 were engaged at one time. In the end, the officers of the Crown asserted the King's right to these coins, and further search, except on behalf of the Crown, was prohibited.

It is estimated that from first to last 100,000 coins were recovered from the bed of this river, and numerous persons, especially those who were earliest in the field, were made rich with their booty.

Many of these coins are now in the British Museum.

But to return to the Earl. Upon arriving at Pontefract, he was advised by a council of war not to linger, but to continue his journey North without delay. Accordingly he once more set out with the remainder of his men. The Royal Armies were on his heels in hot pursuit, and on March 16th he was overtaken at Boroughbridge, some distance north of Pontefract. In the battle which followed the Earl was totally defeated, taken prisoner, and subsequently beheaded at Pontefract, on a hill outside the town.

Sir Robert appears to have been present at the

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

battle of Boroughbridge, as were also two of his kinsmen from the North, Sir Richard and Sir John de Holland.

Sir Robert surrendered to the King at Derby, and escaped the penalty of death, but all his territorial possessions were confiscated. He languished for a while in various prisons, but was at length set free, upon giving pledge of good behaviour.

His family, since the confiscation of his possessions, must have experienced great vicissitudes. Some side light is thrown on this in the following extract, taken from the *Cal. of Patent Rolls*, 1327-30, p. 59 : "Grant to Matilda, wife of Robert de Holland, at the request of the Queen (Isabella), of certain manors in Northampton and elsewhere, which were taken into the late King's hands, for various reasons, to be had for the support of herself and her children, until other provision be made for them."

Of these children, Thomas, the second son, became a member of the household of Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, half-brother of Edward II.*

Five years after the battle of Boroughbridge, which brought ruin and death to the Earl of Lancaster, occurred the King's downfall. He was forced to abdicate, and shortly afterwards was barbarously put to death at Berkeley Castle. A

* *S.H.C.*, XVIII, Pt. II, p. 20.

year later (1328, 1 Ed. III) Sir Robert de Holland also came to an untimely end.

The circumstances which led to this catastrophe are as follows :

In the early part of that year, it had been decided that the attainder of Thomas Earl of Lancaster should be removed, and his estates restored to his brother, Earl Henry, and his heirs. It was also decided by the new King, with the consent of Parliament, that the estates of those who had joined Earl Thomas against the late King and the Despensers should likewise be restored. Thus Sir Robert was to receive back his possessions. Henry, Earl of Lancaster, brother and successor of the late Earl, however, opposed this restitution, and Sir Robert addressed a petition to the King.

Shortly afterwards, in October 1328, Sir Robert was seized by a body of men, adherents of Earl Henry, at Boreham Wood, Elstree, Herts. He was beheaded,* his head being then dispatched to the Earl at Waltham Cross.

According to Dugdale, Sir Robert had incurred much hatred from the people for dealing unfaithfully with his lord. It was said of him that, in order to gain favour with the King, and to save his estates and his life, he had taken care not to bring up to the Earl the required reinforcements, until it was too late to avert disaster.

* *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, II, 270.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

Mr. James Croston, in his history of Samlesbury Hall, once partly owned by the Hollands, gives a somewhat different version. He writes : " It has been frequently alleged that in the insurrection, Sir Robert acted faithlessly. The charge of treachery, however, appears to have had no foundation in truth, and was in all probability devised by the adherents of Earl Henry, to secure his (Sir Robert's) removal, and thereby prevent him from becoming repossessed of the manors which had been conferred upon him by Earl Thomas."

Many who had examined the circumstances argue, too, that if Sir Robert had turned traitor to his Chief, and had gone over to the King, how was it, then, that the King (Edward II) took from him all his possessions, and caused him to be imprisoned ?

Eventually the patrimonial estates were restored to the family, as was also Yoxall, Staffs., granted by Earl Thomas. Otherwise few of the Earl's gifts were ever recovered.*

The body of Sir Robert is said to have been sent to Preston, Lancashire, and there buried in the Church of the Grey Friars, of which he had been a benefactor.†

* In the Staffordshire Historical Collections are many references to Yoxall in connection with Maud (or Matilda), widow of Sir Robert de Holland.

† *Leland Itinerary*, IV, p. 21.

SIR ROBERT DE HOLLAND

He left at least four sons and two daughters.

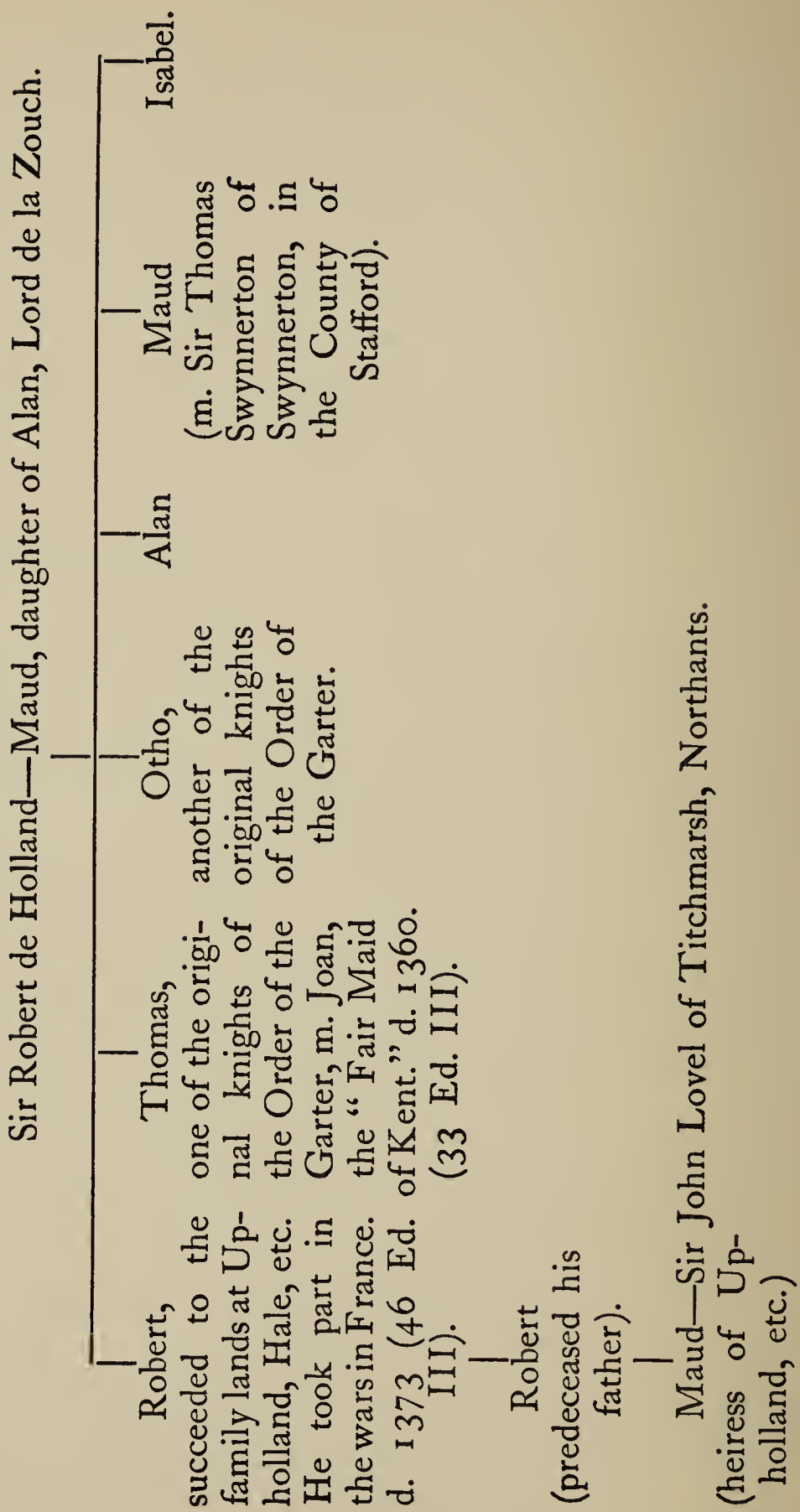
Maud, great-grand-daughter of Sir Robert de Holland, who became heiress of Upholland, etc., married at the age of seventeen Sir John Lovel of Titchmarsh, Northants, and of Minster Lovel, Oxon. By this marriage, the Barony of Holland, with the manor of Upholland, Lancs., the manor of Yoxall, Staffs., etc., were conveyed into the Lovel family, Lord Lovel styling himself in his will, "Lord Lovel and Holland."

Francis, Lord Lovel, a descendant of this union, in the fifth generation, was in high favour with Richard III, who appointed him Chamberlain of his household, with other offices. He fought under the banner of his royal master at Bosworth, and was fortunate enough to escape from the field with his life, his possessions, however, being confiscated. In 1487 (2 Henry VII) he upheld the pretensions of Lambert Simnel, but was heard of no more after Simnel's defeat by the royal troops at the battle of Stoke-on-Trent. He is believed to have escaped to his house at Minster Lovel, Oxfordshire, and to have died there of starvation, while in hiding.*

The manor of Upholland, and other forfeited manors in Lancashire, were granted by Henry VII

* In 1708, when a new chimney was being built at Minster Lovel, a vault was discovered in which was found the skeleton of a man (supposed to be the remains of Lord Lovel), seated at a table whereon was a book, paper and pens. All crumbled to dust, when air was admitted.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY



SIR ROBERT DE HOLLAND

to Thomas Stanley, created Earl of Derby after the battle of Bosworth.*

The manor of Yoxall passed for a time, either by grant or by purchase to the Holles family, a member of which (but at a much later period than this) was created Duke of Newcastle.

Maud, widow of Sir Robert de Holland, died in 1349,† and was buried in the Chapel of the Hospital of St. John, Brackley, Northants.‡ She survived her husband twenty-one years.

Their second son, Thomas, became the founder of the ennobled branch of the Holland family, through the great marriage that he made with the Lady Joan Plantagenet, familiarly known as the "Fair Maid of Kent," daughter of Edmund, Earl of Kent, and grand-daughter of Edward I. The sons and grandsons of Sir Thomas Holland's marriage are the principal characters in Sir Henry Newbolt's historical romance entitled *The New June*.

Sir Robert de Holland founded in his Chapel at Upholland, in 1310, a little College of priests dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury. It was not a success, and eight years later, (1318), through the influence of his Patron the Earl of

* The manor of Upholland was held by the Earls of Derby until 1717, when Lady Ashburnham, daughter and heir of the 9th Earl, sold it to Thomas Ashhurst. His successor sold it to Sir Thomas Bootle of Lathom, ancestor of the Barons Skelmersdale and Earls of Lathom.

† *Lancs Inq. and Extents*, III, p. 201.

‡ *Leland Itinerary*, VII, p. 6.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

Lancaster, he obtained permission to have his Collegiate Church converted into a Priory of Benedictine Monks, the site being considered as more fitted for the monastic rule than for seculars. This was carried out by Walter, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.* The first Prior was Thomas of Doncaster.

For over two hundred years (until the Dissolution of the Monasteries), the Monks lived in this quiet retreat. All that now remain of the Monastery buildings are fragments of some ivy-clad ruins, but the Chapel of the old Priory still exists, and is to-day the Parish Church of the quaint old-world town of Upholland.

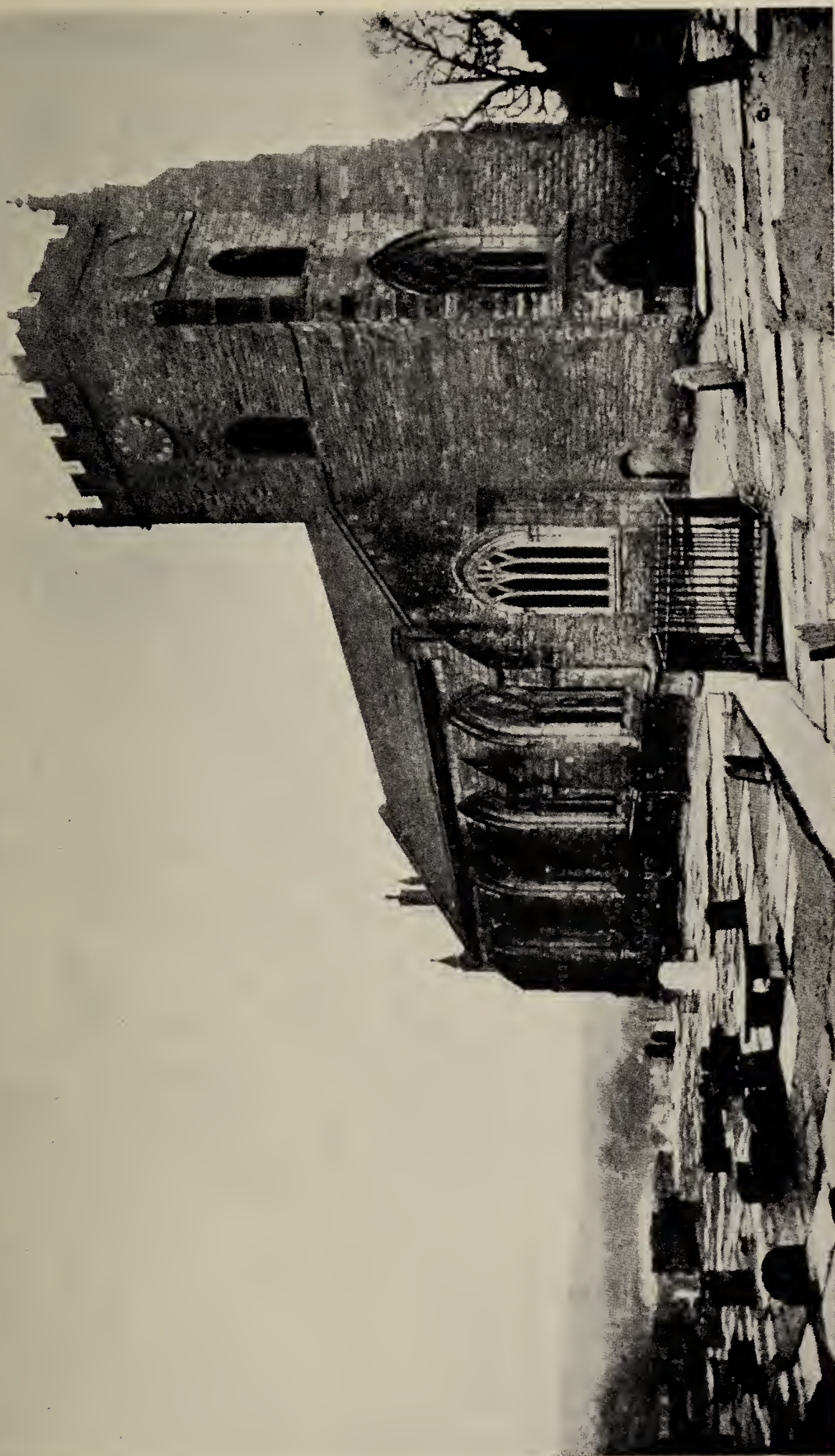
Upholland Priory was the last Benedictine foundation in England.†

Amongst the monuments and manuscript books, preserved in Lichfield Cathedral, is a book called the *Magnum Registrum Album*. It contains entries relating to the Collegiate Church of St. Thomas the Martyr, at Upholland, founded by Sir Robert de Holland.

The founding of Upholland Priory was practically the conclusion of the family's active interest in that manor.

* *Cal. Pat.*, 1317-21, p. 353.

† *V.G.H. Lancs.*, II, p. 26.



UPHOLLAND CHURCH

II

THE ENNOBLED BRANCH OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

(The Earls of Kent and of Huntingdon, the
Dukes of Surrey and of Exeter.)

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND

“ Thomas Holland was at first only a Knight, but afterwards, for his eminent valour displayed in the Wars of France, was by Edward III elected a Knight of the Garter . . . a Noble Order then newly instituted, into which none were admitted but those of the most distinguished merit.”

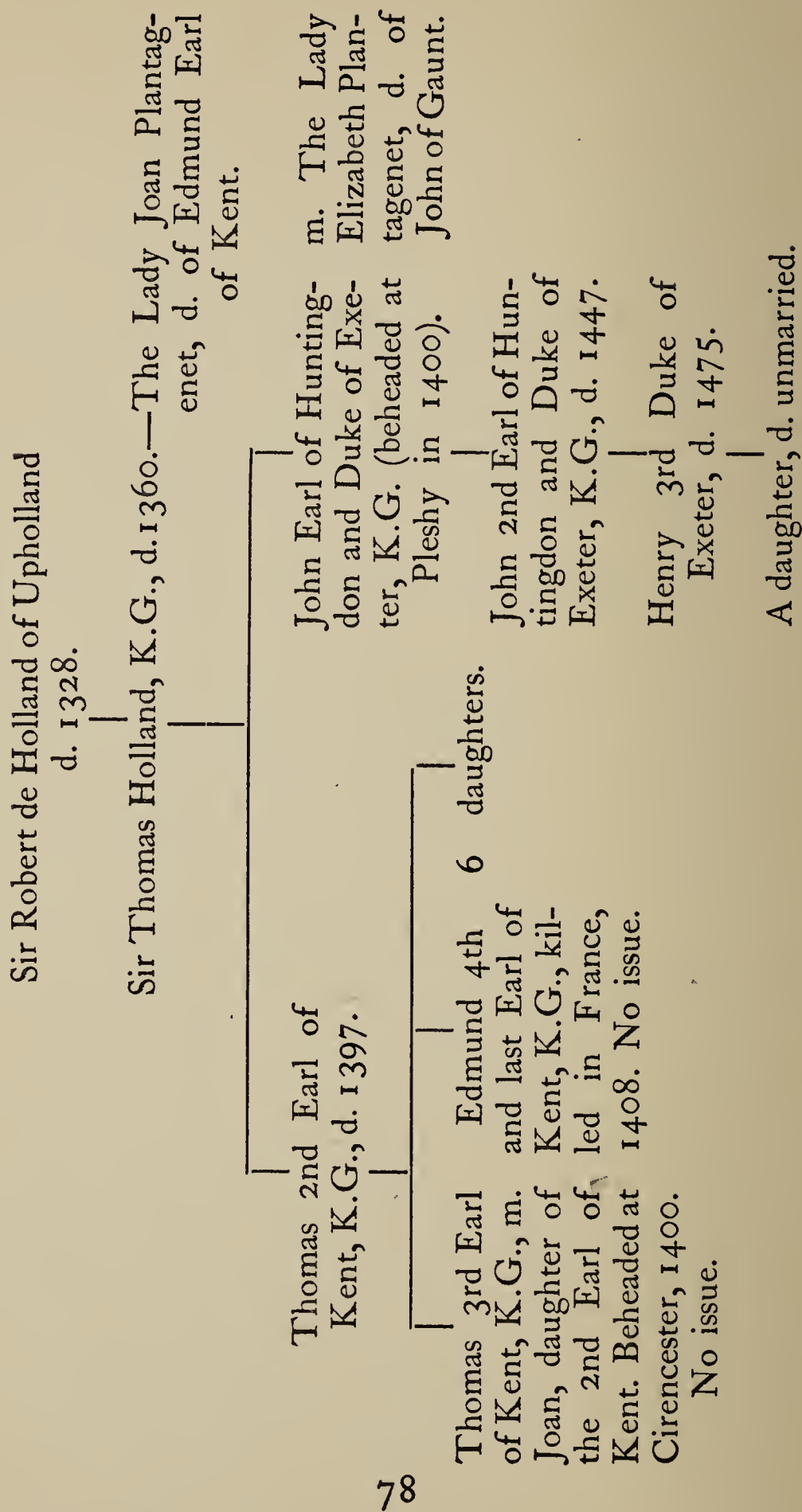
BANK'S *Dormant and Extinct Baronage*.

“ Sir Thomas Holland made a very great marriage, which affected for good or evil all the subsequent fortunes of this branch of the family.”

The Lancashire Hollands, by BERNARD HOLLAND.

No date is given of the birth of Thomas Holland, second son of Sir Robert de Holland, but Dugdale mentions that Robert the eldest son, was sixteen at the time of his father's violent end in 1328 (2 Ed. III). Thomas had been for some time in the household of Edmund Plantagenet Earl of

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY



THE ENNOBLED HOLLANDS

Kent,* whose daughter, not born at any rate before the following year (1329), he eventually married. The Earl of Kent suffered a violent death soon after this.†

In 1328 the French King, Charles IV died. He was the last of the three sons of Philip IV of France, none of whom had left heirs to succeed. The crown then devolved upon Philip of Valois, nephew of Philip IV, but a claim to the French crown was made by Edward of England, by right of his mother, Queen Isabella, only daughter of Philip IV. Hence the "Hundred Years' War," which opened in the tenth year of his reign (1337), and so called because, though fighting was not going on all that time, there was no lasting peace between the two countries.

Thomas Holland's military experience began in the first years of this campaign. He was with the King's expedition in Flanders in 1340, when took place the English Naval victory off Sluys. After this, he did some campaigning with the Spanish Christians against the Moors of Granada, and with the Teutonic Knights against the infidels of Prussia, during which time there was little doing in the

* *S.H.C.*, XVIII, Pt. II, p. 20.

† Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, half brother of Edward II, fell a victim to the malice of Isabella the Queen-mother, and her accomplice Mortimer, and was executed (1330, 4 Ed. III). His offence was that he had openly professed his affection for his deposed brother, Edward II, and ignorant of the fact that the King's murder had already taken place, was endeavouring to rescue him out of prison.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

French War. Some fitful attempts were made to bring about peace, but these negotiations breaking down, in 1345 the activities of the campaign again proceeded. Henry Earl of Lancaster, nephew of Earl Thomas, was, in the autumn of that year, sent to engage in operations in Guienne.

In the following summer, the King himself embarked from Southampton with the object of joining the Earl. With him went his eldest son, Edward, Prince of Wales, better known as the Black Prince, now sixteen years of age, together with a host of the most distinguished warriors of English chivalry. The banners of England had seldom, if ever, waved over such a brilliant array of England's strength and valour.

Included in this assembly was Thomas Holland.

The winds proving contrary, the King's fleet was thrown back upon the coast of Cornwall. The King, in despair of arriving at Guienne in time, was persuaded to land his troops in Normandy. Accordingly he sailed for La Hogue, lying east of Cherbourg, which he reached about the middle of July. On the disembarkation of the army at La Hogue, the Prince of Wales received knighthood, so also did others, including, it is presumed, Thomas Holland, for it is after this that he is referred to as "Sir Thomas."

The chief of the French forces had been sent to the South, to oppose the Earl of Lancaster. Never-

theless Edward's landing in Normandy was not altogether unexpected by Philip of France, who had taken the precaution to send the Constable of France, the Count d'Eu, to reinforce the garrison of Caen, in readiness for attack.

Froissart writes :*

"When the townsmen who had taken the field, perceived the English advancing with banners and pennons flying in abundance, and saw those archers whom they had not been accustomed to, they were so frightened that they betook themselves to flight, and ran for the town in great disorder, without regarding the Constable and the men-at-arms who were with them. The English pursued them eagerly ; which, when the Constable, and the Earl of Tankerville who was with him, saw, they gained a gate at the entrance of the bridge in safety, and a few Knights with them, for the English had already entered the town.

"The English made great havoc, for they spared none. When the Constable, and those that had taken refuge with him within the gate of the bridge, looked round them, and saw the great slaughter the English were making, for they gave no quarter, they began to fear lest they too should fall into the hands of some of those archers, who would not know who they were. But they perceived a Knight who had but one eye, named Sir Thomas Holland, whom they had formerly known in Prussia and Grenada, coming towards them, in company with five or six other Knights. They called to him, and asked him if he would take them prisoners. Sir Thomas and his company advanced to the gate, and dismounting, ascended to the top with sixteen others, where he found the above-mentioned Knights and twenty-five more, who surrendered themselves to Sir Thomas. Having

* *The Chronicles of Jean Froissart*, a Frenchman, born at Valenciennes, relate in a vivid and picturesque style the chief events of the 14th century. His book covers the period of 1326 to 1400.

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

left a sufficient guard over them, he mounted his horse, rode through the streets, and prevented many acts of cruelty, as did also other Knights and Squires to whom several of the citizens owed their lives."

Froissart styles them : "Gentils chevaliers d'Angleterre." In this way the city of Caen was taken.

Edward, King of England, purchased the ransoms of the Constable of France and the Earl of Tankerville from Sir Thomas Holland and his companions, for which he paid them 10,000 nobles.*

Up to this point the King had followed the coast line, accompanied by his fleet.

From Caen he struck into the interior. After laying waste Normandy, and advancing almost to the Gates of Paris, he found it expedient to retreat towards Flanders, being by now vigorously pursued by the French King.

He halted at the village of Crecy, in a strong position, having the forest of Crecy on his left flank and rear. Here he stayed for twenty-four hours, for the purpose of resting his troops, and collecting all his stragglers.

A day or two later, the French King attacked him with a greatly superior force.

The story of Crecy is in reality the story of the

* In a footnote to an article entitled "Crecy and Calais" (*S.H.C.*, XVIII, Pt. II, p. 20), we read : "The noble was half a mark. This sum would therefore amount to about £3,500—an enormous sum in those days, probably not less than £200,000 of modern money."

Prince of Wales' division, for the whole brunt of the battle fell upon his portion of the army. The King had formed the army into three divisions, and it was the first of these that was under the command of the young Prince. To this division were appointed a number of Bannerets and Knights of approved valour and experience in war. Sir Thomas Holland counted among these, and his brother Otho. Froissart, in describing the Prince's division, states that he had in his retinue, "*Toute la fleur de Chivalrie d'Angleterre.*"

As is well known, a great victory fell to the English, the first victory won by the celebrated Black Prince, who on this occasion won his spurs. The battle of Crecy took place towards the close of August 1346. From Crecy, Edward resumed his march, and on the 3rd September invested Calais, the French port of the Straits of Dover, and the eager object of English longing.

The Siege of Calais lasted exactly eleven months. On August 4th of the succeeding year (1347), Calais surrendered to the English, and two months later, King Edward returned to England.

There followed then, though precisely how soon afterwards cannot be said with certainty, the institution by Edward III of the most Noble Order of the Garter, illustrious now as ever, and foremost in rank and honour in our own country. The Order from the first has consisted of the reigning sovereign

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOLLAND FAMILY

and twenty-five Knights, of whom the Prince of Wales is always one.*

When the great part played by the Prince of Wales' Division at Crecy is realised, it will not occasion surprise to learn that more than half the number of the original knights chosen were from his retinue, among them being Sir Thomas Holland, and his brother Otho.†

It was in the latter end of the year 1348, that Sir Thomas Holland married the Lady Joan Plantagenet, only daughter of Edmund, Earl of Kent, called on account of her wondrous beauty the "Fair Maid of Kent." She was not yet twenty, while Sir Thomas would be about thirty-three or four.

The story of their marriage is a very curious and romantic one.‡ It appears that they were affianced

* Froissart names the year 1344 as the date of the foundation of the Order, but he describes the number of the original Knights as forty, and is supposed to have confounded the creation of the Order with the institution of King Arthur's Round Table, which had been revived by Edward III about that date. "A strong argument against the early date" (writes Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley in the *Staffordshire Historical Collections*), "is the fact that the Prince of Wales was then only fourteen, and was not knighted till the landing at La Hogue (in 1346)." *S.H.C.*, New Series, VI, Pt. 2, p. 109.)

† The latter held for a short period before his death (33 Ed. III), the manor of Yoxall, Staffs., with the advowson of its Church, granted by Thos. Earl of Lancaster to Sir Robert de Holland. A Staffs. Final Concord dated that same year (33 Ed. III) records how Otho obtained the manor and advowson from his eldest brother Robert, for the payment of 100 marks of silver, to be held for life at the yearly rent of one rose, the manor, etc., to revert, after his death, to the said Robert and his heirs. (*S.H.C.*, Vol. VII, p. 171.)

‡ *S.H.C.*, Vol. XVIII, Pt. 2, pp. 20-1, and Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families* (II).

when Joan was a mere child, and Thomas Holland's military career hardly begun.

While absent from England during the first years of his campaigning, William de Montacute, first Earl of Salisbury, ignorant perhaps of what had taken place, and anxious to secure Joan, who was of the blood royal, for his son and heir, caused a contract of marriage to be drawn up between them. Possibly Joan herself by that time was not adverse to making, as she felt, a better marriage than with the late Esquire of her father.

In 1344 the Earl died, and his son, at the age of sixteen, became second Earl of Salisbury. Two years later, Edward III's great campaign in France began.

Sir Thomas came back from this campaign, as we know, a Knight of established reputation, and the possessor, moreover, of a considerable fortune obtained by the ransom of his French prisoners. He claimed his pre-contract with Joan, whose feelings towards him since his return appear to have revived, for she showed herself willing to support his claim. The Pope was appealed to, and after long investigation, his Holiness decided in favour of Sir Thomas, November 13th, 1348. The contract of marriage with the Earl of Salisbury* was then annulled, and the "Fair Maid

* William de Montacute, 2nd Earl of Salisbury, also took part in the French campaign, and was another of the original Knights of the Garter, chosen from the Prince of Wales's division at Crecy. He married again, but left no issue.

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of Kent” became the wife of Sir Thomas Holland.*

Four years later (1352) he received a grant from the Crown of a hundred marks yearly, “for the life of Joan, the King’s kinswoman, in aid of her sustenance”—this grant to cease should Joan’s only surviving brother die childless, which would leave her in possession of all his lands. His death shortly afterwards occurred, whereupon Joan became Countess of Kent in her own right, and included in her great inheritance was the Barony of Woodstock, a dignity that had been her father’s, and the Barony of Wake which came from her mother, Margaret, heiress of Lord Wake of Lydel in Cumberland.

Sir Thomas Holland does not seem to have received the title of Earl of Kent until 1360, the year of his death. He was summoned to Parliament as a baron under the title of Lord Holland, and consequent on his achievements in the Wars of France, was given various military and administrative posts. Shortly before his death he was appointed Captain and Lieutenant in France and Normandy. He died in Normandy, December

* A footnote to particulars of Sir Thomas Holland given in the *Complete Peerage* says (in reference to the “Fair Maid of Kent”): “She possibly is the lady in whose honour the Order of the Garter received its name. The well-known tradition is, as Sir H. Nicolas remarks (*Archaeologia*, Vol. XXXI, p. 131), perfectly in character with the feelings of the time, and the circumstance is very likely to have occurred.”

28th, 1360, aged about fifty-four, and was buried in the Grey Friars' Abbey, at Stamford in Lincolnshire.

Froissart speaks of him as "gentil chevalier," and again as "le bon chevalier."

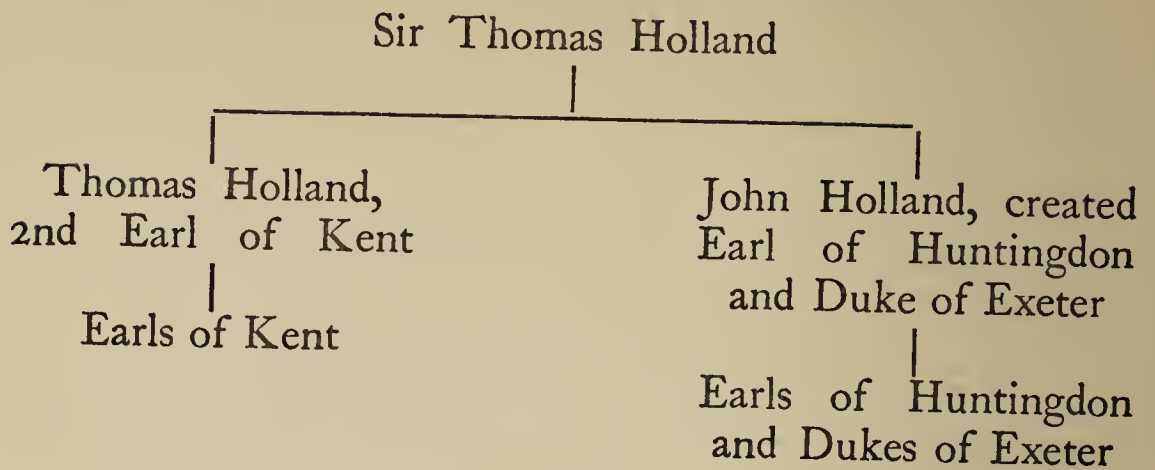
Two sons, Thomas and John, the issue of his marriage with the "Fair Maid," survived him, and there were also two daughters.

The year following his death, his widow married the Black Prince, then in his thirty-first year, while Joan was a little older. The Prince is said to have long been attached to his beautiful cousin.

Following his marriage, the King gave to him the whole of the southern provinces of France forming the Duchy of Aquitaine which the year before had been ceded to Edward III by the French King, on the signing of the treaty of Bretigny. In due time, the Prince with his wife and a splendid suite of knights and gentlemen, set sail for Aquitaine.

At Bordeaux, in Aquitaine, were born the two sons of the Black Prince and Joan his wife. It was the younger of these, who alone survived, who became Richard II of England. In the difficulties connected with his reign, his two half-brothers, Thomas and John Holland, were always his most staunch supporters, and when Richard was made to resign his crown, John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, lost his life in an attempt to regain it for him.

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Not long after the death of Sir Thomas Holland occurred that of Henry of Lancaster, recently created Duke by Edward III, in recognition of his valiant achievements in France. Duke Henry, son of Earl Henry, and nephew of Earl Thomas, was the last descendant in the male line of Edmund Crouchback, founder of the House of Lancaster, for he left no male issue. His younger daughter, Blanche, had married John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III, who, on the death of his father-in-law, succeeded to half the extensive Lancastrian estates, in right of his wife, co-heiress of Lancaster.

On the death shortly afterwards of Blanche's elder sister, the whole of the demesnes of Lancaster then fell to John of Gaunt. He was created Duke of Lancaster, and was from this time the most wealthy and influential peer of the realm.

He rebuilt Tutbury Castle, which, after the defeat of Earl Thomas in the rebellion of 1322, had been left vacant, and had fallen into decay.

THOMAS HOLLAND, 2ND EARL OF KENT,
AND HIS BROTHER JOHN HOLLAND

THOMAS, 2nd Earl of Kent, born 1350, elder son of Sir Thomas Holland, was ten years old when his father died and John his brother was some two or three years younger.

At the age of fifteen, Thomas married Alice Fitz-Alan, daughter of Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel. A year or two later (in 1367) he accompanied his step-father, the Black Prince, on an expedition into Spain to help Pedro the Cruel to recover his lost throne.

The young Earl of Kent, with many others, received knighthood on this occasion, at the hands of the Black Prince.

This expedition, though it brought victory to the Prince, brought also broken health and ruined finances. To raise money, heavy taxes were imposed on his subjects in Aquitaine, resulting in a renewal of hostilities with France. In these the Earl of Kent took an active part.

In 1375 he was made a Knight of the Garter.

In the year following (49 Ed. III), the Black Prince died of a long and wasting disease contracted in Spain.

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Edward III died the year after (1377), whereupon Richard, the young son of the Black Prince, succeeded, at the age of ten, to the throne of England. His two half-brothers who were some ten and thirteen years his senior had assisted their mother, the Princess of Wales, in his upbringing, conducted, it must be said, on lines of the most ruinous indulgence and unconstitutional ideas of infallibility.

During Richard's minority, the power was vested in a council of regency, which included, though not at first, the Duke of Lancaster. When admitted, he became through his wealth and influence the leading man in the kingdom.

Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, by reason of his near alliance in blood to the King, obtained upon the King's accession, a grant of £200 per annum from the exchequer, for the better support of his state, receiving, in addition to this, other grants, in further augmentation of his revenue. His brother John also received grants.*

The latter, in 1381, was made a Knight of the Garter, and in that same year was given the appointment of Justice of Chester, a position formerly held by his grandfather, Sir Robert de Holland.

It was in 1381 (4 Richard II) that there broke out in Kent and Essex the Peasants' Revolt, caused by the Poll Tax. Wat Tyler and Jack Straw were its chief leaders. The rebels marched to London :

* *Cal. Pat.*, Richard II, 1377-81.

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they burnt down the Duke of Lancaster's palace of the Savoy, and for three days had the capital at their mercy.

The courage of the young King in the end saved the situation. Afterwards, when he rode to Smithfield to confer with Tyler, his two half-brothers accompanied him, and to the elder of these, the Earl of Kent, was entrusted the final punishment of the rebels.

Following these events, the Earl of Kent was sent as Ambassador to treat of the marriage between Richard and Anne of Bohemia, daughter of the Emperor Charles IV of Germany. His mission was successful, and Richard and Anne were married by proxy. In the following year, his younger brother, John, was sent with Sir Simon Burley and others to conduct Anne to England.

The Princess of Wales died in 1385, under circumstances to be related later. Consequent on her death, the Earl of Kent had special livery of all her lands, and during the years which followed, held the appointments of Constable of the Tower, Constable of Corfe Castle, Constable of Southampton, and last of all was made Governor of Carisbrooke Castle in the Isle of Wight, for life. From 1380 to 1385 he had been Marshal of England.

He did not live to witness the tragic fate which befel his half-brother, the King, for he died in 1397, two years before Richard II's abdication.

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He was buried at Bourne Abbey, in Lincolnshire, founded by a Lord de Wake in the 12th century.

Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent, left two sons and six daughters. His sons, Thomas and Edmund, succeeded in turn as 3rd and 4th Earls of Kent.

JOHN HOLLAND (*continued*)

CREATED EARL OF HUNTINGDON AND DUKE OF
EXETER, AND HIS NEPHEWS, THE 3RD AND 4TH
EARLS OF KENT

JOHN HOLLAND, younger son of Sir Thomas Holland, seems to have been of an impulsive and passionate disposition, which caused him on one occasion to commit an act which brought dire consequences. It happened in this way :

The King, in the eighth year of his reign, was journeying northwards on an expedition against the Scots, attended by his two half-brothers and retinue, when at Beverley in Yorkshire, John Holland, under the influence of strong passion, stabbed and killed Ralph Stafford, son and heir of Hugh, Earl of Stafford. Froissart describes the grief of the Earl who, on hearing the news, went to the King, saying : “Thou art well acquainted how thy brother, without the slightest reason, has murdered my son and heir, I therefore come and demand justice.” The King answered him : “Be assured, I myself will do justice, and punish the crime more severely than the barons

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would venture to do, and never, by any brother, will I act otherwise." It was accordingly decreed that the assassin's life should be forfeited as soon as he ventured from the Shrine of St. John of Beverley, whither he had fled for refuge.

In vain did Joan, Princess of Wales, the mother of both the King and of John Holland, send imploring messages to Richard to spare his brother's life. Finding that her entreaties were of no avail, she was so overwhelmed with grief that within five days she died at Wallingford Castle, Berkshire, where she had chiefly resided since her widowhood.

On hearing of this catastrophe, Richard's resolution broke down. It was too late to save his mother, but he pardoned his brother.

The Princess' remains were deposited according to her injunctions, not by the side of her last husband, the Black Prince, at Canterbury, but near the tomb of Sir Thomas Holland in the Church of the Grey Friars at Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Her will ran thus :

" In the year of our Lord 1385 and of the reign of my dear son, Richard King of England and France, the 9th, at my castle at Walyngford, in the diocese of Salisbury, the 7th of August, I Joan, Princess of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall, Countess of Chester, and Lady Wake. My body to be buried in my Chapel at Stamford, near the monument of my late lord and husband, the Earl of Kent. To my dear son, the King, my new bed of rich velvet embroidered with ostrich feathers of silver, and herds of leopards of gold with boughs of leaves issuing out of their mouths. To my dear

son, Thomas Earl of Kent, my bed of red camak, paied with red and rays of gold. To my dear son, John Holland, a bed of red camak. To my dear son, Richard, King of England, and France, etc. . . . and I appoint the venerable Father-in-Christ, my dear friend and cousin, Robert, Bishop of London ; William, Bishop of Winchester, . . . etc., my executors. Witnessed by the Pryor of Walyngford, and John James. Proved 9th December 1385."

John Holland eventually made his peace, through the mediation of the Duke of Lancaster and others, and was pardoned by the Earl of Stafford. Later, in expiation of the murder he had committed, he came to an agreement with the Earl, "to find three priests to celebrate divine service every day, to the world's end, for the soul of Ralph Stafford, in such places as the King should appoint."

He seems to have been quickly restored to royal favour, and in the year following these untoward events, viz., in 1386 (9 Ric. II), he married Elizabeth Plantagenet, younger daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and sister of Henry Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV.

After his marriage he accompanied his father-in-law, the Duke of Lancaster, on the latter's expedition into Spain, to claim the crown of Castile, through his second wife, Constance of Castile, daughter of Pedro the Cruel, whose throne the Black Prince had helped Pedro to recover. The Duke's handling of the government had not been a fortunate one, and the Peasants' Revolt proved the deathblow to

his power. Aware of this, and of his unpopularity, he made his claim to the throne of Castile a pretext for absenting himself for a while from the country. His place was then taken by his youngest brother, Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, whose ambition it had been to have the chief part in the ruling of his nephew's realm.

Meanwhile Richard, now aged twenty, had for the past two years been endeavouring to govern for himself, assisted by favourites whom he placed in high office. On these favourites, and on his two half-brothers, Thomas and John Holland, he relied.

Gloucester took steps to oppose these favourites. He was joined by the Earls of Warwick and Arundel and other great barons, and ultimately, by 1388, a clean sweep was made of them, by banishment or otherwise. For this, Richard never forgave Gloucester.

In the year following, at the age of twenty-three, he shook himself free from his uncle, and the trammels of guardianship, and took the government into his own hands, ruling for the next eight years with care, wisdom and success.

Richard II was not without a share of the great ability of the Plantagenets. One of the causes of his downfall was his ruling passion for luxury and great display, which entailed heavy cost. Holinshed tells us how "there resorted daily to his Court about ten thousand persons. They had meat and

drink there allowed them. In the kitchen there were three hundred servitors. Of ladies, chamberlains, there were about three hundred at least. They wore gorgeous and costly apparel."

Bereft of his favourites, Richard had only his two half-brothers on whom to rely. John Holland, now back from Spain, had upon his return been created Earl of Huntingdon, receiving with this title two thousand marks a year for the maintenance and support of his rank. He likewise was given territory in many counties, including Somerset, Cornwall, and, in particular, Devon.

Among the gifts in the latter county was Dartington House, near to Totnes, in the beautiful valley of the river Dart. Dartington House had been a seat of noble families ever since the Conquest. It had recently fallen to the Crown, Richard thereupon giving it to his younger half-brother, who built a new structure to replace the old one. John Prince, writing in his *Worthies of Devon* at the close of the 17th century, speaks of Dartington House as "a stately pile of buildings, with a fair quadrangle of about an acre of ground in the middle. The hall (he continues) is very spacious, consisting of near an hundred foot in length, with proportionate height and depth."

The present Dartington Hall is still another structure, replacing Dartington House, but the hall of John Holland's time, described by John Prince,

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with its immense fireplace, still remains, though roofless and in ruins.

In 1390 (13 Ric. II) the Earl of Huntingdon, whom Froissart styles "a valliant man-at-arms," attended a famous tournament in France during a temporary truce between the two countries. Froissart describes the tournament at great length, and with vivid detail, extracts from his account being as follows :

" In the beginning of the charming month of May, three young French Knights, Sir Boucicaut, Sir Reginald de Roye, and the Lord de Saimpi, had undertaken to hold this Tournament at St. Inglevere, near Calais, and to defend the lists for thirty days against all comers from England and elsewhere. The Tournament had been proclaimed in many countries, but especially in England, where it excited several Knights and Squires who were fond of adventures and deeds of arms. Amongst the most eager was Sir John Holland, who with others declared : ' Let us prepare ourselves to the Tournament near Calais . . . for these French Knights only hold it that they want our Company. It is well done and shows they do not want courage. Let us not disappoint them.'

" Sir John Holland was the first to cross the sea. More than sixty Knights and Squires accompanied him, and took up their quarters in Calais. . . .

" Sir John Holland had a great desire to shine. . . . He with others was greatly praised.

" At the end of the fourth day, (no more tilters appearing), the Earl of Huntingdon and all the Knights who had tilted during the four days, then waited on the French Knights, and thanked them warmly for the amusements they had been given. They said, ' All the Knights who have accompanied us, having now tilted, we take our leave of you,

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and return to Calais on our way to England.' The three French Knights replied :—' We desire you will accept our best acknowledgements for the courtesy you have shown us.' . . . In such friendly fashion did the English and French Knights separate."

The Frenchmen in the Tournament had rather the best of it, as not one of them was unhorsed.

Upon the return of the Earl of Huntingdon to England, he was made Chamberlain of England for life.

The acute question of the day was whether it should be Peace or War. The pleasure and luxury loving King hated war. It did not trouble him in the least that nearly all the English conquests won in France during the previous reign had been lost.

Gloucester, on the other hand, wanted war. His policy was for reconquest, and on this issue he led a strong and formidable party.

The situation was thus when in 1394 (17 Ric. II) the Queen, Anne of Bohemia, died. Matters were brought to a head two years later, by Richard marrying for his second wife Isabella of France, the eight-year-old daughter of the French King, Charles VI. With this marriage in 1396, a truce for twenty-five years was made between England and France. Thus did Richard hope to secure peace.

Gloucester violently resented this transaction, and his relations with the King became more acute than ever.

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It was in the year following Richard's second marriage (20 Ric. II), that his elder half-brother, the Earl of Kent, died, whereupon the latter's elder son, Thomas, succeeded to the title and estates, as 3rd Earl of Kent.

A gallant and promising youth, he was quickly to be drawn into plots and conspiracies, and to suffer with his Uncle of Huntingdon dire consequences.

Gloucester secretly aimed at the deposition of the King, and to put in his place Roger Mortimer, the heir presumptive to the throne. Richard was apprised of these intentions by those around him, who feared Gloucester. It was represented to the King that as long as Gloucester lived there could be no prospect of peace. Accordingly a plot was laid for his capture. John Holland took a leading part in carrying out the plot, and probably was its author. This is what happened (gathered from Holinshed) :

“On July 10th of 1397 the King went to London, where he dined at the house of his brother, the Earl of Huntingdon, in the street behind All Hallows Church, upon the banks of the River Thames, which was a right fair and stately house. Gloucester and his confederates, the Earls of Warwick and of Arundel, were bidden to the banquet, the plan being to then arrest them. Only Warwick attended. Gloucester made the excuse of ill-health, while Arundel sent no excuse at all, but went to his castle at Reigate. . . . After dinner, the King gave his council to understand all the matter, by whose advice it was agreed that he should assemble forthwith what power he might

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conveniently make of men-at-arms and archers, and straightway take horse, accompanied by his brother the Earl of Huntingdon, and the Earl Marshal,* to the Duke of Gloucester's Castle at Pleshy (in Essex).

"This destination was reached in the course of the night or early hours of the next morning, when the Duke and Duchess were still in bed. The Duke hastily descended half dressed, and with humble reverence said his Grace was welcome, asking of the lords how it chanced they came so early, and sent him no word of their coming. The King herewith courteously requested him to go and make him ready, and appoint horses to be saddled, for that he must needs ride with him a little way, and confer with him on business. The Duke went up again into his chamber, and put upon him his clothes, while the King, alighting from his horse, fell in talk with the Duchess† and her ladies. When the Duke re-appeared, he mounted horse, departing thence with the King."

Events quickly followed. Gloucester was arrested, a short distance from Pleshy. He was then hurried down to the waterside, conveyed to Calais, and there murdered.

Camden writing of the incident says : ‡

"At a little distance on the one side of the river stands Plaisy, so called in French, from 'Pleasing.' . . . This was the seat of the Constables of England in the latter end of the Saxons. . . . To this same place, two very powerful nobles, who could not keep themselves between the two extremes of base flattery and downright obstinacy to their Prince, do owe their death ; Thomas de Woodstock, Duke

* Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, descended from Thomas of Brotherton (younger son of Edward I), who first had the title of "Earl" attached to the office of Marshal.

† Eleanor de Bohun, elder daughter of the last of the de Bohuns, Earls of Hereford.

‡ Camden's *Britannia* (Essex), p. 352.

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of Gloucester . . . and John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, brother on the Mother's side to King Richard the Second. . . . The former for his rashness and contumacy was hurried from hence to Calais, and strangled ; the other was beheaded (this was two years later) in this very place, for rebellion, by command of Henry the Fourth, so that he seemed by his death to have appeased the ghost of Woodstock, of whose fall he was accounted the main procurer."

Thomas Holland, the young Earl of Kent, had been one of the King's party on the memorable journey to Pleshy. He now, with his Uncle of Huntingdon and six other lords, met to impeach Gloucester's associates who along with him were accused of having plotted against the King. As a result, Thomas Beauchamp Earl of Warwick was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Isle of Man, and Richard Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, was beheaded on Tower Hill. His sister Alice had married Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent, so that the Earl of Arundel was related by ties of marriage with the Earl of Huntingdon, who is accused of having assisted at his relative's execution.

Arundel before his execution addressed Huntingdon thus : " Truly it had better becomed you to have been absent ; for the time will come when there shall be as much wonder at your misfortunes as now is at mine."

New titles were now created and given to the King's supporters, whilst the forfeited estates

of the vanquished were distributed amongst them.*

Thus John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, was made Duke of Exeter, a title newly created for him, possibly for the reason that he wished to be associated with that region of England where he had large estates, and where was Dartington House, his country seat.

The young Earl of Kent was made Duke of Surrey.

Others of the King's supporters were also given new titles, notably Henry Bolingbroke, the King's cousin, who was created Earl of Hereford, and Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, who became Duke of Norfolk.

Richard, having got rid of his enemies, could now do what he chose. "In those days," writes Froissart, "there were none so great in England that durst speak against anything the King did. He had a Council to his liking, who exhorted him to do what he list ; he kept in his wages 10,000 archers. He thus kept greater state than ever. No former King had ever kept so much as he did by 100,000 nobles a year."

Alone as he was, Richard might have continued to stand, had he not set up the powerful House of Lancaster against him, by an act of the grossest bad

* Included in John Holland's portion of the confiscated lands were the Castle, honour and lordship of Arundel. (*Cal. Pat.*, 21, *Ric.* II, Pt. I, m8.)

faith and tyranny. Henry Bolingbroke, Earl of Hereford, son and heir of John of Gaunt, had always been a supporter of Richard in his struggle with Gloucester, but Richard had never been without a secret dread of the rising power of the House of Lancaster, of which Henry, after his father's death, would be the head.

In 1398, a quarrel having arisen between Henry and Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, resulting in a challenge of arms, Richard made it the pretext to banish Henry from the country for ten years, while Norfolk was banished for life.*

Henry retired to France. At the close of that year, his father, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, died. Richard, in Henry's absence, seized upon the great estates of the Duchy of Lancaster, though he had given his word to Henry that his banishment should make no difference to his rights of inheritance.

After committing this unjustifiable act, it was not a propitious moment for Richard to embark for Ireland, which, however, he then did, to avenge the death of Roger Mortimer his heir, recently killed in a petty skirmish. With him went his half-brother, now Duke of Exeter. The exiled Henry seized the occasion to return to England and avenge his wrongs. Landing at Ravenspur in Yorkshire,

* He died not long afterwards at Venice. His daughter, Margaret, married Sir Robert Howard, and their son, John Howard, became eventually, the first Duke of Norfolk of the Howard line.

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with a handful of men, by the time he reached London, a large army of followers had gathered round him, ready to give him their support. Henry was popular, while, with regard to Richard, the people had grown weary of his rule and extravagance. When he returned from Ireland, it was to find that his crown had passed from him.

He landed at Milford Haven, whence he took refuge in various castles in Wales belonging to those still loyal to him. At Flint he was at length betrayed into Henry's hands, and taken to London.

At a meeting of Parliament, he was charged with having wastefully spent the treasure of the realm, with having murdered his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, and put to death the Earl of Arundel, contrary to law.

He was made to renounce the crown, and Henry of Lancaster was proclaimed King as Henry IV (October 1399).

Henry's first Parliament resolved that the advisers of the late King should be imprisoned and tried.

Accordingly John Holland, Duke of Exeter, was sent to Hertford Castle, and his nephew of Surrey to the Tower, while others were confined elsewhere. The accused Lords were then brought before Parliament, where they were convicted of having connived at Gloucester's capture and murder. It was decreed that they should forfeit their new titles as well as the lands granted to them by the

deposed monarch since 1397.* Thus the Duke of Exeter became once again Earl of Huntingdon, while his nephew of Surrey was again Earl of Kent.

If both had been content, after this, to meddle no more with plots and conspiracies, their further careers might have proceeded peacefully enough : “ But,” writes Froissart, “ the Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King Richard, though married to the sister of Henry IV, could not forget his treatment of the late King, any more than could the Earl of Salisbury.” (This was John Montacute, 3rd Earl of Salisbury, another of Richard’s staunch adherents.†) Accordingly these two Earls held a secret meeting at which they plotted to restore Richard, and destroy Henry. They gained to their party the young Earl of Kent, and the Lord Despenser, one of the most powerful barons of the day, and the decision they came to was to seize Henry at Windsor, on the eve of Twelfth Night, January 1400. Henry in the meantime was warned of the conspiracy, and fled to London, while writs were issued for the capture of the traitors. Alarmed and disconcerted, the conspirators resolved to retire into the West. They

* Parliament reversed the attainder of the late Earl of Arundel, and all his honours and possessions were restored to his son. The line of the Fitz-Alan Earls of Arundel ended in the reign of Elizabeth, on the death of Earl Henry, who left no son. His daughter married Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and their son, Philip Howard, succeeded to his maternal grandfather’s title and to the estates of Arundel.

† Nephew of the Earl who married the “ Fair Maid of Kent.”

proclaimed Richard in all the towns and villages on their route, and the next evening took up their quarters at Cirencester.

The Mayor of Cirencester, having by this time received the King's writs, summoned the Burghers and inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and at midnight made an attack on the quarters of the Earls of Kent and Salisbury. They were captured and beheaded, their bodies being afterwards buried in the Abbey Church of Cirencester, while their heads were sent to London, to be placed upon London Bridge.

John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, was not with them. He had stayed about London to watch the progress of events, and now attempted to escape in a boat down the Thames. Adverse winds landed him in Essex, where he was soon afterwards discovered in the house of a retainer. He was then taken to Chelmsford, and from thence to Pleshy, the very place where he had so largely assisted in the capture of Gloucester. There he was beheaded by order of Joan, Countess de Bohun, Gloucester's mother-in-law. Thus it would seem (as Camden wrote), that the murder of Gloucester was now avenged.

Holinshed recounts how the Earl, before meeting his doom, "confessed with lamentable repentance . . . that by divers and many ways he had offended God and his Prince."

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His head, as in the case of his nephew, was sent to London, to be placed upon London Bridge, after which, on the petition of his widow the Countess of Huntingdon, it was allowed to be sent to Pleshy, to be buried in the Church there, with his body.

So died John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, a man of undoubted character, bold and energetic, but impetuous, and addicted at times to violent outbursts of passion, as seen in the incident with Ralph Stafford. He was nevertheless a fine fighting man, whom Froissart commends for his skill at arms, and there can be no question of his devotion and loyalty to his half-brother, King Richard, which never wavered to the end. The French Chronicler, Jean de Wauvrin, writes of him as follows : “ Il estoit ung moult beau prince, grant et droit, bien fourme de tous membres.”*

Parliament passed a bill of attainder by which the titles and estates of the Earls of Huntingdon and Kent were declared forfeited.

John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, was aged about forty-eight when he came by his violent end. His nephew was twenty-six. Particulars of the Earl of Huntingdon's family will be left for a later chapter.

The young Earl of Kent left no family. He married Joan Stafford, sister of Ralph Stafford

* “ He was a right handsome prince, tall and straight, well formed in all his limbs.” (*Chroniques*, IV, p. 47.)

whom his Uncle had killed at Beverley. His brief career since he succeeded to the Earldom in 1397 had been brilliant. He was made a Knight of the Garter, and received the appointments of Constable of Southampton, Marshal of England, Lieutenant of Ireland, and Constable of Dublin Castle. He founded the Priory of Montgrace in Yorkshire, and there his body was eventually taken from Cirencester, and buried.

Froissart writes with a note of tender regret of the young Earl's untimely end. "He was much lamented by several Knights in England and other countries. He was young and handsome and had very unwillingly taken part in the conspiracy, but his uncle and the Earl of Salisbury had forced him into it."

Very shortly following these events, the unhappy Richard, the dethroned King of England, was secretly put to death at Pontefract Castle, Yorkshire, whither he had been conveyed following his deposition. Froissart alluding to his death, writes :

"This King Richard reigned King of England twenty-two years in great prosperity, holding great estate and seignory. There was never before any King of England that spent so much in his house as he did, by a hundred thousand florins a year, for I, Sir John Froissart . . . was in his Court more than a quarter of a year together, and he made me good cheer, because that in my youth I was clerk and servant to the noble King Edward the Third, his grandfather, and with my Lady Philippa of Hainault, Queen of England, his grandam, and when I departed from him, it

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was at Windsor ; and at my departing the King sent me by a Knight of his called Sir John Golofre, a goblet of silver and gilt, weighing two marks of silver, and within it a hundred nobles, by the which I am as yet the better, and shall be, as long as I live ; wherefore I am bound to pray to God for his soul, and with much sorrow I write of his death.*

When the 3rd Earl of Kent met with his tragic fate at Cirencester in 1400, and a bill was passed for the attainder of his property, there were no estates for Edmund, his younger brother and heir, to succeed to. Edmund was born in 1384, and was accordingly sixteen years of age at the time of his brother's death. A petition to the Crown was made for a grant for his maintenance, and two hundred marks per annum were accorded him. This not proving sufficient, the grant was increased. Before long, however, he was allowed possession of most of his brother's escheated title and estates.

Edmund Holland, 4th Earl of Kent, seems to have been a pleasing and attractive youth. Holinshead speaks of him as being in high favour with the King (Henry IV), who not only advanced him to high office and honours (he was made a Knight of the Garter in 1403), but also to his great cost and charges obtained for him the Lady Lucia, eldest daughter and one of the heirs of the Lord Barnabo of Milan.

The marriage contract took place at Milan, and

* *The Chronicles of Froissart* end almost directly following the death of King Richard.

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the marriage ceremony in London, January 24th, 1407, at the Priory Church of St. Mary Overy, now Southwark Cathedral.

In the same year, Edmund Holland was appointed "Admiral of the North and West."

Following this, he was commissioned by the King to treat with the Count of Penthievre, owner of the Island of Briak off the coast of Brittany, who had rebelled against the Duke of Brittany, his suzerain, and had refused to pay a sum due to the English Crown.

The Island and Castle of Briak were both captured, at the cost of the life of the young Earl, who received a mortal wound on the head, at Briac, and died a few days later, September 5th, 1408.

His body was brought home and buried near to that of his father, Thomas, 2nd Earl of Kent, at Bourne Abbey, in the fens of Lincolnshire.

Edmund Holland left no issue, so that after his death, the Earldom of Kent in the Holland family became extinct.

The Hollands of the younger branch, descendants of John Holland Earl of Huntingdon, younger son of Sir Thomas Holland, continued to exist for a while longer.

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE 2ND EARL OF KENT

It has been said that the 2nd Earl of Kent had, besides two sons, six daughters.

The eldest of these, Alianora, married Roger Mortimer, Richard II's heir to the throne, a descendant of the traitor Mortimer, and a great-grandson of Edward III through his second son Lionel Duke of Clarence. Their daughter, Anne Mortimer, married into the House of York, whereby Alianora Holland became the ancestress of the "White Rose" in the Wars of the Roses.

Margaret, the third daughter of the Earl of Kent, married John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by Katherine Swynford. The descendants of this marriage (the Beauforts), were the leaders of the "Red Rose" in the Wars of the Roses. Thus the curious circumstance arose that the descendants of these two sisters fought as bitter rivals in that long Civil War.

Ultimately a descendant of each sister united by marriage the two rival Houses, when Elizabeth of York (Alianora Holland's grand-daughter) married Henry Tudor, afterwards Henry VII, son of

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Edmund Tudor and Margaret Beaufort (Margaret Holland's grand-daughter).

Both sisters married twice. Margaret Holland had, by her first husband, three sons and two daughters. Her elder daughter, Joan, married James I of Scotland.*

Margaret Holland's second marriage was with Thomas Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, brother of Henry V. She and her two husbands are buried in Canterbury Cathedral, where, in the Warriors' Chapel, is seen the beautiful alabaster monument, which Margaret commissioned to be executed to perpetuate the memory of her two husbands and herself. The monument shows her lying between them.

Joan Holland, the second daughter of the Earl of Kent, married four times. Her second husband was Edmund Langley, Duke of York, fifth son of

* The picturesque love-story of James I of Scotland and the Lady Joan Beaufort, though a familiar one, may be briefly told here : James, son and heir of Robert III, second of the Stewart line of Scottish kings was, for political reasons, at the age of twelve (7 Henry IV) being sent by sea to France, when the ship was captured off the coast of Yorkshire, and the young James taken prisoner and brought to London. On hearing this untoward news, King Robert was so overcome by grief that he shortly afterwards died. James was kept in honourable captivity in England for eighteen years during which time, we are told, he " was well versed in all manly and warlike exercises, was taught all gentle accomplishments, law, manners, and music, and to write poetry." It was while he was a prisoner in the Round Tower of Windsor Castle that he sometimes saw from his window Joan, the fair daughter of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, and Margaret Holland, walking with her maidens in the garden below, and he fell in love with her. When at last set free from his long captivity (2 Henry VI), he married her before returning to Scotland.

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Edward III, and she was his second wife. There was no issue of this marriage.

She is said to have been possessed of great beauty. Froissart, writing of the Duke of York, says : " He had a fair lady to wife, daughter of the Earl of Kent, who was all his pleasure, and with whom he spent most of his time that was not filled by hunting and other diversions."

Eleanor, the fourth daughter, married the last of the Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury (son of the Earl beheaded at Cirencester). Their only child, Alice, heiress of the Montacutes, married Richard Nevill, a son of Ralph Nevill, 1st Earl of Westmoreland, who became, in right of his wife, Earl of Salisbury.

The issue of this marriage was the celebrated Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, known as the " Kingmaker." Thus Eleanor Holland was grandmother of the Kingmaker. It was through the Kingmaker's marriage with the heiress of the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, that he became Earl of Warwick.

Elizabeth, the fifth daughter, married the eldest son of Ralph Nevill, 1st Earl of Westmoreland.

Bridget, the youngest, became a nun. She entered the famous Benedictine Convent of that time at Barking in Essex.

JOHN HOLLAND,
2ND EARL OF HUNTINGDON

JOHN HOLLAND, Earl of Huntingdon, beheaded at Pleshy, left three sons, Richard, John, and Edward, and a daughter Constance,* all still quite young when the Earl came by his violent end, his titles gone, his estates confiscated. His widow the Countess of Huntingdon, sister of the reigning sovereign, Henry IV, received a thousand marks a year for her maintenance, also various grants of her late lord's forfeited goods. She married, not long afterwards, Sir John Cornwall. Of the three sons above mentioned, little is known of Richard and Edward, who died unmarried. It fell to John, the second son, to fulfil a career.

He was born and baptised at Dartington, Devon, in 1394. John Prince, in his *Worthies of Devon* (published 1698), gives some account of his baptism, and the names of the Sureties who were present.

“There were (he writes) the Abbot of Tavistock, who gave him a cup of gold, framed after the manner of a lily, and ten pounds in gold therein, and the Prior of Plimpton who gave him twenty pounds in gold. The Godmother

* Constance, the only daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, married (1st) Thomas Mowbray, son of the Duke of Norfolk, whom Richard II banished from England, and (2nd) John Lord Grey of Ruthin.

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was Joan, the wife of Sir John Pomeroy, Kt., whose castle of Biry was not above three miles away, who carried him to the Church to be christened, Sir John, her husband, and Sir John Dinham, Kt., conducting her by the arms. Of which solemnity, it is further added, that twenty-four men walked before them, with twenty-four torches, which, so soon as the baptism was ended, were enkindled."

John was six years old at the time of his father's death, and during his minority received a grant of a hundred marks a year for his maintenance.

He was in his twentieth year when Henry IV died (1413). On the eve of the coronation of Henry V, he was made a Knight of the Order of the Bath, instituted at the coronation of the late King.

From this time his career moved rapidly forward. In 1415, when Henry V renewed the "Hundred Years' War", he accompanied the King to France, and was present both at the siege of Harfleur and at the battle of Agincourt. It may be said that he was engaged in active warfare upon French soil throughout the whole of Henry V's reign, displaying, we are told, extraordinary skill and valour.

Towards the close of 1415, John Holland was made a Knight of the Garter.

Two years after this (in 1417), occurred the death of Richard, his elder brother, who died possessed of estates in Devon and elsewhere which the Crown had apparently released from confiscation. Following this, John was restored in blood as heir to his father and brother, and to the Earldom of Huntingdon.

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The title of Duke of Exeter, his father's later dignity, was not available, it having been given by Henry IV to Thomas Beaufort,* third son of John of Gaunt by Katherine Swynford.

In 1419, John Holland, now Earl of Huntingdon, was specially commissioned to subdue all the castles and strongholds in Normandy which held out against the King, and in the following year (1420) was with the King at the Siege of Melun, being constituted Governor upon its surrender. By reason of his services rendered here, and other special services, he was made Constable of the Tower of London.†

Henry V's efforts in France being crowned with success, he was by 1420 able to dictate terms of peace, and the Treaty of Troyes was framed. Its leading conditions were :

(1) That Henry should marry the French Princess, Katherine of Valois.

(2) That he should be Regent of France during the life of the now imbecile king, Charles VI.

(3) That on the death of Charles, France should be united with the Crown of England.

The year following the signing of the Treaty of Troyes, the Dauphin, Charles, was successful in

* He is the Duke of Exeter who distinguished himself at Agincourt, and to whom Shakespeare alludes.

† *Cal. Pat.*, Vol. I, Henry VI, p. 41. The office of Constable of the Tower is one of the oldest in England, dating back to within a few years of the Conquest, and has always been one of great honour and distinction. The Constable was the supreme official of the Tower, and resided in what is still known as the Constable Tower. It has been mentioned that Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent, was for a time Constable of the Tower of London.

routing the English troops at Beaugé. In this battle, the Earl of Huntingdon was with the force commanded by Henry V's brother, Thomas Duke of Clarence. The Duke was killed, and among the many prisoners taken was the Earl of Huntingdon. His captivity lasted five years, at the end of which time he contrived, at heavy cost, his own ransom.

Henry V only lived a short time to enjoy the fruits of his victories, for in 1422 he died, two years after the signing of the Treaty of Troyes.

The death of the imbecile French king occurred soon afterwards, whereupon, according to the terms of the Treaty, the nine-months old son of Henry V was proclaimed King of France, as well as of England.

The Dauphin, Charles, meanwhile continued to contest his right to the French throne, and so the weary and endless war between France and England dragged on.

In 1427 (5 Henry VI) took place the Siege of Orleans, ending so victoriously for France, with the coronation of the Dauphin as Charles VII at Rheims. From this time the successes of the English began steadily to decline.

It was felt expedient, after the coronation of Charles, that the young King Henry VI of England, now a boy of ten, should also be publicly crowned in France. Accordingly this was done, the Earl of Huntingdon assisting at the coronation, solemnized in Paris in 1431.

Four years later (1435), a Congress was held at Arras with the object of trying to bring about peace, but no successful result ensued.

The French proposals were that the English should relinquish their claim to the French Crown, but keep Normandy. The English would, however, not accede to these proposals.

The Earl of Huntingdon had been one of the Ambassadors sent from England to take part in this Conference, and it is recorded that in order, no doubt, to give importance and influence to his mission, "he had licence to carry with him gold, silver, plate, jewels, robes, twenty pieces of woollen cloth and other things to the value of twenty-six pounds"—a great treasure in those days.

On his return, he was given the appointment of Lord High Admiral of England, Ireland, and Aquitaine.

Some five years following the Congress at Arras, we read that he presented a petition to the Crown stating that he had not sufficient means to maintain his rank. He enumerated his continual services in the Wars of France, both in the previous reign, and in the present one, also that he had been taken prisoner in France when in the King's service, and put to heavy ransom for his liberty. Accordingly the Crown, in consideration of the eminent part he had played in France and in the Duchy of Aquitaine, granted him a yearly sum of five hundred marks

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“to be received of himself, and afterwards of his heirs male of his body.”

Three years after this (in 1443), following the death without issue of Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, was made Duke of Exeter, by letters patent, dated at Windsor, with the privilege “that he and his heirs male should have place and seat in all parliaments and councils, next to the Duke of York and his heirs male.”

Following this, his office of Admiral of England, Ireland, and Aquitaine, as well as that of Constable of the Tower, were assured to him for life “to be enjoyed by him and by his son Henry, in survivorship.”*

John Holland, 2nd Earl of Huntingdon, did not live long to enjoy the restoration of his father's second title. He died in 1447 (2 Henry VI), after a career of singular activity, during which time he won much honour and distinction.

He married three times. His only son was the offspring of his first wife, born Anne Stafford, and widow of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March.

He gave instructions in his will “that his body be buried in a Chapel within the Church of St. Catherine by the Tower of London, at the North end of the high Altar in a tomb there, ordained by him and Anne his first wife, as also for his sister Constance, and Anne his other wife, then living.”

* *Cal. Pat.*, Henry VI (Vol. IV, p. 405 and Vol. V, p. 32).

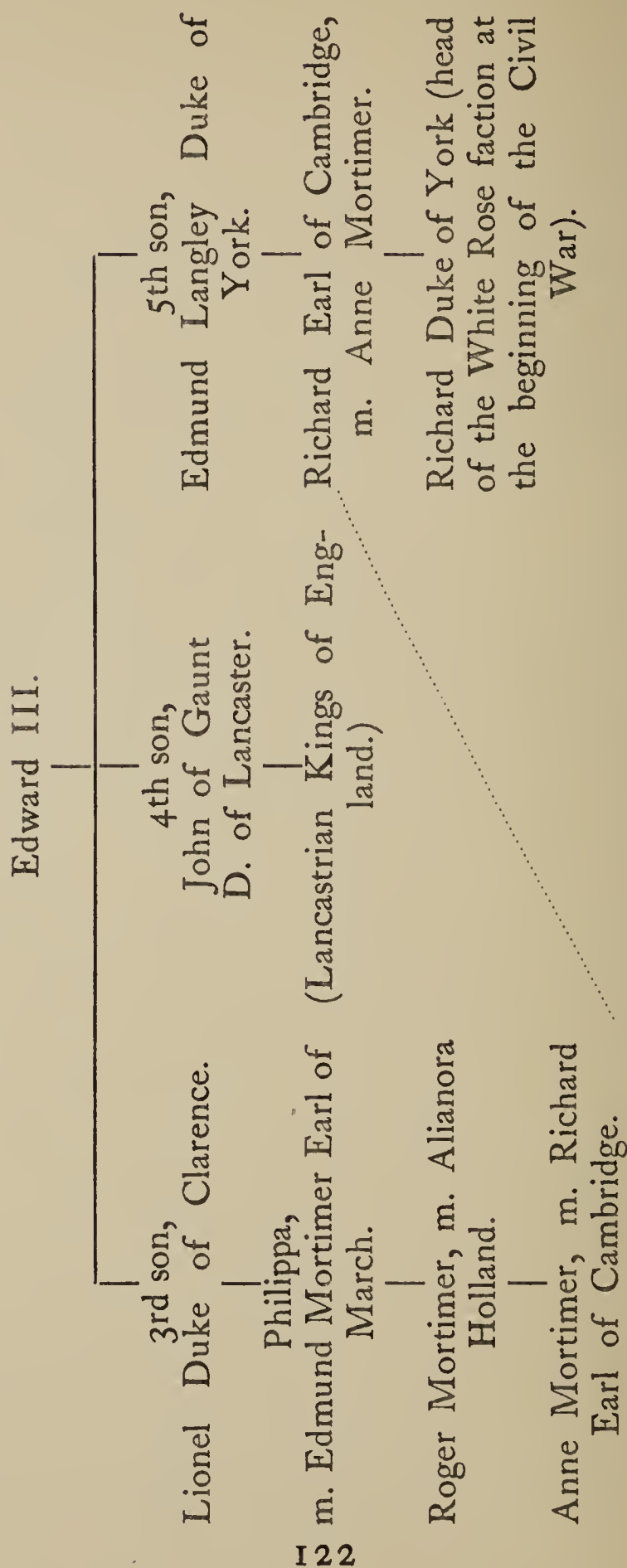
HENRY HOLLAND,
3RD DUKE OF EXETER

HENRY HOLLAND, only son of the 2nd Earl of Huntingdon and Duke of Exeter, was born in the Tower of London, June 27th, 1430 (8 Henry VI), and baptised that same day in St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. He was seventeen years of age at the time of his father's death, succeeding thereupon, by the terms of agreement, to the latter's appointment of Admiral of England, Ireland, and Aquitaine. The office of Constable of the Tower was, during his minority, held by James Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele.*

The story of Henry Holland Duke of Exeter will make sombre reading, after the brilliant record of his forbears. But times were changing. The long war with France, with its chances of honour and distinction, was drawing to a close. The French were steadily gaining ground, and their opponents losing, until at last, by 1453 (31 Henry VI), no English invader remained upon French soil. Of all the vast territory England had at one time owned in France, there was left to them by 1453 but one small spot of its earth, viz. : Calais. In that same

* *Dictionary of National Biography* (James Fiennes).

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year, a son and heir was born to Henry VI and Queen Margaret of Anjou.

Two years later (1456), the long Civil War in England, known as the Wars of the Roses—a contest between the Houses of York and Lancaster for the first place in the kingdom—began.

Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter was to meet with great misfortune, and to come to an untimely end, for the part he took in this campaign. He fought on the Lancastrian side, and was one of its foremost leaders, assisting Queen Margaret in her desperate effort for the King, her husband, and their young son.

The head of the Yorkist faction (that of the White Rose) was Richard Duke of York, grandson of Roger Mortimer and Alianora Holland. His claim was that he was descended on his mother's side (that of Anne Mortimer) from the third son of Edward III, and on his father's from the fifth son. By the right of primogeniture, therefore, the House of York had a superior claim to that of Lancaster, which sprang from the fourth son (see page 122).

The Duke of York's supporters were the Earl of Salisbury (Richard Neville) and his son the Earl of Warwick.

Richard Duke of York was slain at the battle of Wakefield Green in 1460. His place was then taken by his son, Edward Earl of March, who, in the following year (1461), after his victory over the Lancastrians at the battle of Mortimer's Cross, was

proclaimed King as Edward IV. He had nevertheless to fight for his crown before he could wear it.

Queen Margaret had, in the meantime, fled with King Henry and the young prince to the North, still loyal to the Red Rose. Thither the fugitives were pursued by the new King (Edward IV) and the Earl of Warwick, and at Towton in Yorkshire was fought the greatest and fiercest of all the battles of the Wars of the Roses. Both parties were present in full force. This desperate fight was fought on Palm Sunday on a bleak hillside during a blinding snowstorm. It lasted for a whole day, from dawn till dusk, and ended in the complete defeat of the Queen's army.

Following this catastrophe to the Lancastrian cause, Queen Margaret, with King Henry and the young Prince Edward, fled to Scotland, and with them went the Duke of Exeter and Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerset (Margaret Holland's grandson).

Parliament then proclaimed Edward IV's right to the throne, while acts of attainder were passed against a number of the Lancastrian nobility, including the Duke of Exeter. Their estates were confiscated, and divided among the nobility of the Yorkist faction.

When next we meet with the Duke, it is in Flanders, whither he and other notable Lancastrians had fled to take refuge at the Court of Charles the Bold, the last of the four great Dukes of Burgundy.

There he spent some weary years of exile, and became reduced to great poverty. That he suffered the greatest vicissitudes while sharing the fortunes of the unhappy House of Lancaster we learn from the French writer, Philip de Commines, who relates how he saw the Duke of Exeter "running on foot, barelegged, after the Duke of Burgundy's train, begging for bread for God's sake." When Charles the Bold was made aware of his identity, he bestowed upon him a small pension.

On the temporary restoration of Henry VI, in 1471 (ten years after the great battle of Towton), the Duke returned to England, and at the battle of Barnet commanded the left wing, in conjunction with the Earl of Warwick, now on the Lancastrian side.

It is recorded that after fighting with extraordinary valour, he was wounded by an arrow, and being thought dead, was abandoned by his squire. He lay apparently lifeless upon the field, from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon, when a servant, finding him still alive, dressed his wounds and conveyed him to sanctuary at Westminster. Thence he was removed by Edward IV to the Tower, where he remained in custody for four years. He was then allowed, or ordered, to join the King's expedition to France.

A few months later his body was found floating in the sea between Calais and Dover. How it

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came there never transpired, and will always remain a mystery.

The young Prince Edward, only son of Henry VI and Queen Margaret of Anjou, had been put to death at Tewkesbury shortly after the battle of Barnet. It fell then that Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, at the time of his death, was the only legitimate male descendant left of John of Gaunt, and of the House of Lancaster.

He married in early life Anne Plantagenet, eldest daughter of Richard Duke of York, and sister of Edward Earl of March, afterwards Edward IV. The sole offspring of this marriage was a daughter, Anne, who died early. Following the Duke's misfortunes, the Duchess at her own suit was divorced from him, and married Sir Thomas St. Leger. Her daughter by this second marriage was also named Anne, and this has led to some confusion, for it was Anne St. Leger, and not Anne Holland, as is sometimes stated, who married Sir Thomas Grey.

Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, unlike his predecessors, was never made a Knight of the Garter, and there is little of fortune to relate in the history of his career.

He was the last male representative of his line, which accordingly, upon his death, became extinct.

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On reading through the foregoing account of the

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Hollands, it is curious to note how the House of Lancaster affected throughout their fortunes and destinies. Beginning with the favour extended to Sir Robert de Holland by the Earl of Lancaster, there was later the connection made by marriage between the two families. Finally, when at the critical moment in the history of the House of Lancaster, the Wars of the Roses were to decide whether it should stand or fall, the last of Sir Robert's illustrious line fought in its cause, and perished in its ruins.

The remarkable career of the Hollands of the ennobled line stands out as a striking and romantic episode of English History. Playing an active part in its most picturesque and chivalrous period, they won the highest honours for services rendered ; they figured among the original Knights of the Order of the Garter, and became allied by marriage with the highest in the land. Their branch of the stem, planted at remote Upholland, enjoying singularly favourable conditions, shot rapidly forth, and grew to a great height. For a time it flourished exceedingly, then broke off and died, at the closing period of the Middle Ages.

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