

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

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THERE never was a dearth of heroes in this fair Devon of ours, and in the foremost rank we claim a place for Francis Drake, the man whose exploits once rendered his name so famous that "none other stood so high at home or abroad," and whose character has been variously drawn, according to the delineator's sympathy or taste. In a period of political transition, every prominent man, in proportion to his progressive powers, must naturally excite hostility among the adherents to the past, but who can say what would have been the present condition of the so-called Anglo-Saxon race, had the Devonshire hero faltered or wavered in his course?

It is not our object to repeat what is already known from printed biographies about Sir Francis Drake, and more lately from the vigorous pages of Froude, but rather to supplement what has been done by gleanings that would have remained undisturbed by the ordinary writer, who has neither slumbering traditions to awaken, nor the incentive of loyalty to a family name. Although the date of his birth is doubtful, it is clear enough that Sir Francis Drake was born at Croundale, in South Tavistock. Very soon after his death his parentage was shrouded in mystery. His representative² was well satisfied to regard him as the Buonapartes did the first Napoleon, without looking further. Those who wrote about him did not trouble themselves to go where genealogical information could be found, and were then safe in making assertions which no one was in a position, or cared, to contradict; yet how many favourite structures crumble before the rigour of modern scrutiny! By general assent not only was he of the lower orders but his line was so far wanting in antiquity that he ventured to borrow arms to

¹ Read in the Historical Section of the Exeter meeting of the Archæological Institute, August 1, 1873.

² Heralds' Visitation, 1620.

hide the deficiency of a name as essentially heraldic as that of Plantagenet; for we scarcely need the reminding that the dragon was an ancient standard of England,³ as of other nations, in times more remote, and Le Drake, Drake, and Dragon were synonymous. They were severally and indifferently used in old legal processes, both in Devon and York, and it is worthy of remark, that Sir Francis Drake named his first ship "the Dragon," and was himself styled the same by his countrymen and by strangers.

We shall have to show some advance beyond our predecessors, by launching our hero into life with an authentic and respectable parentage. When a young man he embarked his savings in a mercantile venture and lost his all, through the treachery of the Spaniards, at St. John de Ulloa. At that time Spain laid claim to the Western hemisphere by Papal grant. "The Inquisition had decided that all heretics whom it could reach were amenable to its laws."⁴ English property was confiscated and English subjects, Drake's kinsmen and friends amongst them, were cruelly treated and imprisoned. He sought redress to no purpose, and her Majesty's letters in his behalf were disregarded. Philip could, or would, not interfere with the Holy Inquisition, and the spirit of the dauntless Devonshire man would entertain no craven submission. With confidence in Divine assistance, he resolved to cope singly with all the might of Catholic Spain.

"Whether to win from Spain what was not Spain's,
Or to acquit us of sustained wrongs,
Or intercept their Indies' hoped-for gains,
Thereby to weaken them and make us strong;
Here to discuss to me doth not belong."⁵—*Stanza 420.*

The actuating principle and its results were aptly expressed in his double motto—"Auxilio Divino." "*Sic parvis magna.*"

This resolve of a private individual in the end proved most opportune for Elizabeth, who, terrified at the pretensions of Philip, the legitimate descendant of John of Gaunt, clung to Protestantism for support, and discovered an

³ It was the badge of the Cymry, or primitive Britons.

⁴ Hakluyt Soc. "The world encompassed." Vaux, Introduction.

⁵ "Life and death of Sir Francis

Drake," by Charles Fitz-Geffry, a poem printed at Oxford, 1596. For notice of the Rev. Charles Fitz-Geffry see Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, by Bliss, vol. ii, p. 607.

invaluable weapon in the intrepidity and enthusiasm of Drake. "The king in petticoats," as Essex wrathfully called her, concerted measures with the Devonshire worthy against the common enemy, but however much her kingly energy and spirit might, at times, have aided our hero, the vacillation of the Queen sadly interfered with his steady purpose. It was part of their compact that he was to be disowned in case of failure, and to be hanged as a pirate rather than betray his mistress. Truly he was heavily weighted, but the two equally regarded each other as instruments subservient to their own ends. He had to endure affront, and win success, before Elizabeth would pronounce "whosoever striketh at thee, Drake, striketh at us likewise." She scolded him for burning powder, and upbraided him for seeking vain glory.⁶ He had to become by "his own word and promise personally liable"⁷ for costs incurred in the public service, while a price of 20,000 ducats was set upon his head,⁸ and offered by the King of Spain to John Doughty; and Jesuits came over to England with the design to assassinate him.⁹

The circumnavigation of the globe, minor exploits, and captures, with the skill and daring bravery displayed by Drake, are too well known for comment in a brief sketch. Before the famous "Singeing of the King of Spain's beard," Fenner wrote from Plymouth to Walsingham, that "Drake sticketh at no charge to further the service, and layeth out great store of money to soldiers and mariners to stir up their minds."¹ The next day Drake, writing to the same minister, "hopes the enemy will have cause to say that God doth fight for her Majesty as well abroad as at home."² He hurried to sea to elude the portending countermand of the 9th April, wherein her Majesty "desired him to forbear entering any of the ports of Spain, for the preparations of the king were not so great, and Philip had made overtures."³ By the 27th April, however, Drake was able

⁶ Letter of Eliz., 20th May, 1580. State Papers, Domestic, vol. ccxxiv., No. 53. Drake offended Elizabeth by consuming ammunition at target practice. Froude, vol. xii., p. 438.

⁷ Letter of Sir F. D., Nov., 1587. Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. ccv., No. 54.

⁸ Confess. of Pat. Mason, May, 1582. Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cliii., No. 49.

⁹ Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cxci., No. 35.

¹ 1st April, 1587. Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cc., No. 1.

² 2nd April, 1587. Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cc., No. 2.

³ 9th April, 1587. Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cc., No. 17.

to announce to Walsingham from Cadiz, the destruction of the shipping preparing for the invasion of England, and that he intended by God's help to stop their supplies.⁴ He added a postscript urging England to be prepared strongly, and most of all by sea;—"Stop him now, and stop him ever." On the same day he wrote a private and highly characteristic letter to John Fox, the martyrologist, which we will give further on. We need not relate how Effingham and Drake drew upon their own resources to keep afloat the fleet that was to save England. Whether the game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe was apocryphal or not, we may be sure that on the Armada's approach, Francis Drake, the Puritan, said in his heart, like Cromwell on the descent of Leslie at Dunbar, "The Lord hath delivered them into our hands, for they are coming towards us." We know how the west country lions, for his captains were chiefly Devonshire and Cornish men,⁵ had to continue the fight with ammunition taken out of the magazines of their prizes; but historians, before Froude, forgot sufficiently to record that the chief glory of those terrible days, belonged to Sir Francis. The Spaniards declared "Toda la gloria se da a Draeck,"⁶ and even our own seamen afterwards imputed want of courage to the noble Howard, affirming that he hung back, and that "the Spanish fleet would have yielded on another fight."⁷

Before the expedition quitted the Spanish shores, a letter written in St. John de Luz stated that "the account made in England of the king and all his Spanish force, is less than the fear that the Spanish mariners have of Sir Francis Drake."⁸

Different accounts are given of our hero's resignation and patience under adversity. Some assert that his death was hastened by chagrin, which brought on disease, and Monson and Lopez de Vega hint at poison.⁹ Dr. Johnson hoped that "he whom no series of success could ever betray to vanity or negligence, could have supported a change of fortune without impatience or dejection."¹ The speech concerning his friend or relative, Brute Brown, is evidence

⁴ Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cc. Drake to Walsingham, 27th April, 1587, No. 46.

⁵ See list at p. 384.

⁶ Simancas MSS.

⁷ Sta. Pa. Dom. Add., vol. xxxi., No. 20.

⁸ Sta. Pa. Dom. Add., Jan. 16. 1587. Vol. xxx., No. 7.

⁹ Sir W. Monson's Tracts, p. 26, and "La Dragontea," poem, by Vega. 1597.

¹ Gent. Mag., vol. xi., p. 41. 1741.

that his self-control did not forsake him, and the following description of his last moments may be new to many, and give an idea of his cool collectedness and fortitude.

William Whitelock, brother of Sir James Whitelock, a Judge of the King's Bench, "served Sir Francis Drake in his chamber, and followed him to the *Groin* and his other sea voyages, and behaved himself very valiantly to the good liking of his maister, and so continued in his service until Sir Francis died at sea, at which time he was nearest about him, and put on his armour upon him a little before his death, which he wolde have doone, that he might die like a soldiour."²

Clarke says, "His corpse being put into a coffin of lead, was let down into the sea, the trumpets in a doleful manner echoing out their lamentations for so great a loss, and all the cannons of the fleet were discharged according to the custom of sea funeral obsequies."³ His death was mourned as a national calamity, and FitzGeffrey exclaimed—

"Drake for his country died, O joyful end!
This joyful end began his country's woe."—*Stanza 275.*

Within a stanza or two our author took heart, and became defiant—

"Proud Spain, although our Dragon be bereft us,
We rampant Lions have enow for thee!"—*Stanza 278.*

The memory of Sir Francis needs no panegyric at our hands; enough in that way has been already done. We simply desire to present the results of our investigations, with our mode of interpreting the mainspring of all his actions.

The remembrance of the blood-thirsty persecution which had driven his father from his quiet home in Croudale, "to inhabit in the hull of a ship"⁴ on the Medway, engendered in him a dominant hatred of the Church of Rome, of whose insidious aims Spain was the ostensible or avowed abettor; and this hate was intensified, embittered, and even sanctified by a Puritanical training. His writings abound with sentences worthy of John Knox, and on the very day of his important despatch, informing Walsingham

² "Liber Familicus," p. 12. Sir J. Whitelock, Camd. Soc. 1858.

³ "Life and Death of Sir Francis Drake,"

by Samuel C. Clarke, Minister of St. Benet's Fink, Lond. 1671. p. 68.

⁴ "Drake Revived," &c. Preface. 1652

of the celebrated Cadiz action, he wrote "To the Right Reverend learned Godly Father, my very good friend, Mr. John Fox, preacher of the word of God.

"Mr. Fox, whereas we have had of late such happy succes against the Spaniards. I doe assure myself that you have faithfully remembered us in your prayers, therefore I have not forgotten briefly to make you partaker thereof." [He goes on to describe his adventures, saying that "the king of Spain was making great preparations, and expecting assistance to invade England," and concludes thus—] "Wee purpose to set apart all fear of danger, and by God's furtherance to prevent their coming, wherefore I shall desire you to continue a faithfull Remembrance of us in your Praiers, that our part and service may take that effect as God may be glorified, his Church, our Queen, and country preserved. The Ennemies of truth so vanquished that we may have continuall peace in Israell. From aboard her Maj^{istys} good Shipp called the Elizabeth Boneadventure, in very great hast, 27 Aprill, 1587.

Your loving and faithful sonne in Christ Jesus,
FRANCIS DRAKE."

"P.S. Our enemis are many, but our protector comandeth the whole world. Lett us pray continually, and our Lord Jesus will hear us in good time mercifully."⁵

Fox died on the 18th April, 1587, in the interval between Drake's departure for Cadiz, and the date of the letter. When the rumour reached Fox at Reigate, that the Six Articles were to be revived, he strongly remonstrated in a Latin address to parliament.⁶ Samuel Fox, the biographer of his father, speaks of the friendship which subsisted between him and Sir Francis. "Inter militares viros Fran. Drakum consuetudine sua, mire devinxerat, quem virum prope ea tempora laudari quibus vixit superfluum fuerit, commendari posteris, vel multis

⁵ The date is taken from the Harl. Select MSS., 7002, the text is to be found printed in black letter, at the end of Thomas Greep's history of the voyage, published in London, A.D. 1587, 4°. The name of Greep still exists in Buckland Monachorum.

⁶ Strype, Mem. of Archbp. Cranmer, vol. ii. p. 937. Henry Drake was living at Reigate about the time, and was styled on his monument "E familia Dracorum in Com. Devoniam oriundus."

voluminibus vix suffecerit," which Fox thus renders, somewhat incorrectly, "Among military men Sir Francis Drake was much delighted with his familiarity, whom to commend near the times he lived in were needless, but to commend him to posterity, according to his deserts, many volumes would scarce suffice."⁷

We have here a sketch from a sectarian point of view, and this intimacy with Fox ought to give a clearer insight into the real character of Drake, for such adventitious records afford a better criterion than his Spanish reprisals, and we must not overlook the fact that Thomas Fuller has selected his religious character to adorn "The Holy State." Some writers, notwithstanding, who never candidly studied the man, have not hesitated to ascribe to him the sordid motives of a freebooter. Let us cite one or two incidents to rebut this calumny. When laden with the spoils of "Our Lady Conception," and pursued by the Spanish ships sent in chase, Drake quickened no sail like a freebooter to escape with his booty, which to him was the spoil of the Amalekites. He suffered them to overhaul him, and fight if they dared, but they quailed before the Puritan's faith, though three to one, and sheered off without firing a shot. Nor could avarice be fairly imputed to Drake. On the other hand numerous instances are recorded of his prodigal liberality and self-denial. His private fortune was lavishly spent in enterprises for the public weal, and he used the golden bait freely to lure others to his purpose. A French captain (Tetu) presented him with a jewelled scimitar, which had been made for the King of France. The Indian auxiliary Pedro coveted this private property, and Drake generously gave it to him. Pedro, out of gratitude laid some wedges of gold at his feet. We should look long for another now to emulate the noble example of self-denial Drake set on that occasion.⁸ The letter from Edmund Tremayne of Collacombe, to Walsingham, yields strong testimony in favour of Drake's disinterestedness. Froude

⁷ Acts and Monuments, 9th edit. Lond. 1684.

⁸ He threw the wedges into the common stock, remarking it was but just that those who had been induced to embark in the enterprise through his representa-

tion should have a share in all the advantages.—"Drake Revived," p. 85.

"So Drake his country filled with store and plenty,
And filling it, himself was almost empty."

Fitz Geff., *Stanzas* 215.

has quoted a portion, and we shall yet have to refer to the original.⁹

It remains on evidence that Drake sank more than 7000*l.*, in the last expedition,¹ and he did not bequeath the vast amount of wealth that many imagine, although it is true that her Majesty made him presents in money, and the writer has found among the National Archives in the Public Record Office, Letters Patent whereby she granted him manors and lands in the several counties of Devon, Bucks, Dorset, Northampton, York, and Durham.² We have not pursued the discovery far enough to trace the conveyance of these estates to other persons.

Drake's few detractors, like Sir William Monson, have been fond of alluding to his mean extraction, concerning which they knew little or nothing, but the modern opinion of his birth was scarcely shared by his contemporaries. His bitterest enemies, the Spaniards, conceded to him a gentleman's degree. From papers found in the Venetian archives (printed by Longmans, 1866), the ambassador, Hieronimo Lippomano, writes to the Signory from Madrid, on the 9th of May, 1587, relative to Sir Francis Drake :—

“I will tell you that this man was a very favourite page of King Philip's so long back as his Majesty was in England. Being afterwards sent to India, he served his Majesty honourably in those parts, filling a certain post, on account of which he returned to Spain with a credit of 9000 ducats, and after remaining a whole year at the court, without ever having been able to obtain these arrears, owing to the fault of the ministers, he sold the debt for 3000 ducats. On returning thus to England, he said he would revenge himself with his own hand, and having obtained leave from the Queen, he proceeded immediately to India with five armed ships, and in Magellan's Straits, amongst other prizes, he captured a vessel freighted with gold. Not content with this, he returned a second time last year in yet greater force, and then and there, and now in Spain, has done such great damage as is notorious, and yet worse may be expected, which may God avert.”

⁹ Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cxliv., No. 17.
8th Nov., 1580.

¹ Chancery Proceedings, B. & A. Eliz.,
D. No. 42, b. 9.

² Originalia, 5 Pars. 24 Eliz., Ro. 52,
m. 26.

The Editor's note explains from dates the possibility of Drake's having held the post referred to, and that it would have been incompatible with meanness of birth, which the Spaniards would have been very glad to have alleged against him. Some have wondered how so much chivalry and other refined traits of the true gentleman could have sprung from an ungenial soil, while his admirers have deduced additional merit from this disadvantage of birth by holding him up as a stimulating beacon.

Contrary to the commonly acquired belief, the family held a very good position in the neighbourhood of Tavistock. It appears from deeds³ that John Drake was Churchwarden of Tavistock in the 5th of Edward IV., and a John Drake was Port Reeve of the borough in the eleventh year of the same reign.⁴ In the next reign, William Drake was associated with Richard Banham, the mitred Abbot of Tavistock, as executor of the will of Walter Fitz., of *South Tavistock*, gent.⁵ In the 20th of Henry VIII., Richard Drake was overseer with Sir John Arscott and John Amadas, Serjeant-at-Arms, of the will of Richard Prideaux, of Tavistock, gent.⁶ By the early subsidy of Henry VIII., we learn that Drake, Hawkins and Amadas were three of the only eight names returned for Tavistock as ratable under the highest assessment.⁷

In point of antiquity, the earliest mention of the name that we have yet been able to trace was that of one Reginald Le Drake, who owned land in Tiverton, temp. Henry III. ;⁸ and Sir W. Pole has cited one Roger Le Drake, who held half a knight's fee in Dartington, temp. Edward I.⁹ We gather from Bishop Grandison's Register, and from the De Banco and Coram Rege Rolls that one Reginald Drake was a monk of Tavistock in the times of Edward II. and Edward III.¹ In the fourth year of Edward III., Ralph, the son of John Drake, was a landowner in Lamerton, a parish adjoining Tavistock.² In the 10th Edward III., John Drake held under the Duke of Cornwall in Calstock, near Croun-

³ Deeds of Sir Charles P. B. Sawle, Bart., Penrice, Cornwall.

⁴ Sir Chas. Sawle's Deeds. Walter Wrawleigh was Reeve of the Boro. of Tavistock, A.D. 1398.

⁵ Prin. Co. Cant., Holgrave, 36.

⁶ Prin. Co. Cant., 1529.

⁷ Subs. Roll, 14 Henry VIII., Devon.

M { 1. a. } 22 Henry III.,
Assize Rolls, 1 { m. 9, } Devon.
32 { dors. }

⁹ Pole's Devon MSS.

¹ Bp. Grandison, Reg. De Banco, 4 E. 3, Hill, m. 139. Coram Reg. 4 E. 3 Mich.

² Pat. Ro., pt. 1, m. 8, dors.

dale.³ In the 47th Edward III., Richard Drake's was the highest assessment in the Tavistock Hundred.⁴ John Drake, senior, was Vicar of St. Stephen's on the Tamar, and resigned in favour of John Drake, junior, who in turn resigned in 1398,⁵ in the time of Richard II.;⁶ and Walter Drake, of Tavistock, appears on the Rolls of Henry IV.⁷

Several of the Tavistock, or west country, Drakes were clergymen about the time of Sir Francis; one William Drake stands in the "Valor" as Rector of Sydenham and Vicar of Whitechurch, in which parish lie some of the outskirts of the town of Tavistock, and a part of the Croundale estates. He was instituted to Whitechurch in 1524,⁸ the patrons of which were the monks of Tavistock, of whose number he might have been one. He died in 1548, and we give a few extracts from his will.⁹

"I Wyllyam Drake, Vicar of Whytechurch, &c. &c. . my sole to Almyghty God . and my body to be buryed in the Chancell even before the dexte that standyth before the hye Aulter of the before named Chancel To my gode mayster Thomas Tremane,¹ I give and bequeath my best gelding my mare, my best salt, a dozen of my best sponys, my sylver Coupe, the new half garnysh of Pewter Vessell performed . . . To John Maynard, my cosen, I bequeath my sylver salt. To my servant Stephen Burley I bequeath iij Kee (Cows) &c. all the rest of my goods, not bequeathed, I will that Master Thomas Tremane shall have it, whom I make my Exor, he to dystribute the same as he shall thynke moyst meyte and convenyant for the welthe of my sole."

The will proves an intimacy then subsisting between the Tremaynes and Drakes, and the relationship to Maynard affords one among several clues to family connections, which none but a Devonshire genealogist would have suspected and followed out. By way of illustration, Thomas Maynard wrote an account as an eye-witness of Sir Francis's last voyage, wherein Sir Nicholas Clifford was killed, together with Brute Brown, whom the author styles "my brother,"

³ Orig. Ro.

¹ Lay. Subsidy Account.

⁶ Bp. Stafford's Reg.

⁶ De Banco. Roll, 20 Ric. II. Trin. m. 293, and Bp. Brantingham's Reg.

⁷ Assize Roll. 1 } M)
5, 13 H. IV., Devon.
35)

⁸ Bp. Vesoy's Reg.

⁹ Consist. Co. Exon., 1548.

¹ He was father of Edmund Tremayne, the great friend of Sir Francis Drake.

and at whose death Sir Francis exclaimed, "I could grieve for thee, dear Brute, but I must not now let down my spirit." Brown was also connected with the Langdons of Keverell, with whom the Drakes had intermarried, and his brother bequeathed his estates to Harris, a name in Drake's will. Maynard was connected with both the Hawkinses and Langdons, Drake's kinsfolk. William Maynard was a witness to Sir Francis Drake's will, and another Maynard conducted a Chancery suit for Thomas Drake, the heir of Sir Francis. The Cliffords were related by marriage to Tremayne and Courteney, and these names are mixed up with a Tavistock Drake's in a suit in Chancery, when John Drake was the executor to the will of Madam Tremayne, née Courteney. The Thomas Tremayne above-named, married a daughter of Roger Grenville; their son, Edmund Tremayne, in the letter to Walsingham² already spoken of, thanks him for associating with him, Drake and Christopher Harris, whom he had "long time regarded as a son, and now Mr. Drake is also become of the same parentage, so as her Majesty shall in these matters have been committed to the father and to his two sons. * * * * * Mr. Drake will do as your honour findeth that I love him for sundry good respects." The inventory attached to the letter is signed by Ed. Tremayne, Francis Drake, and Christopher Harris. This Christopher Harris and Sir Anthony Rouse, patron of the Rev. Chas. Fitzgeffery, the poetical biographer of Drake, with Will. Strode, were the executors of Sir Francis's will. Harris's grandmother was a Grenville of Stowe, into which family Drake of Ash had married. His mother was a co-heiress of Henry Esse or Ash, alias Trecarrell,³ the owner of part of Croundale, and landlord of the Drakes. His wife was an Arscott and his uncle (according to some) had married a sister of Edmund Tremayne, and Edmund Tremayne

² Sta. Pa. Dom., vol. cxliv., 5th Nov., 1580. No. 17.

³ Chancery Proceedings, A.D. 1584, Kelly v. Drake. Croundale, the birth-place of Sir Francis, in South Tavistock, is partly within the parish of Whitechurch. By a suit in Chancery, temp. Eliz., Kelly, the son of a co-heiress of Trecarrell, alias Ash, claims a part of Croundale then in the occupation of John Drake, yeoman, who answered that Henry Trecarrell had leased the same to one John Drake, then deceased, son of one Edmund Drake. The

said John Drake, by will, ordained Julian Drake and John Drake, the defendant, his executors. He, the defendant, outlived Julian, and entered into possession of West Croundale in accordance with the will, but to South Croundale he asserted no title. The estate of Croundale remained with the Drakes till the early part of the last century, when a moiety passed to the Courtenays. There is an entry in the parish rate book for the year 1738. "Mr. Edm. Drake's men for killing two Fochs, 8d."

had been, like Drake's father, a victim of religious persecution. Another co-heiress of Trecarrell married Kelly, who had a suit with a Drake about Croundale,⁴ and Kelly again was connected with the Whitelocks, one of which name put the armour on Sir Francis before he died. Tooker married the widow of Trecarrell, and one Tooker was the last Abbot of Buckland Monachorum. Sir Francis interceded with Walsingham for his "cousin Tooker,"⁵ and Sir Walter Raleigh the year before also pleaded for his own kinswoman Tooker, for whom Bernard Drake had become bondsman.⁶

The direct marriage connections of the Tavistock Drakes, appear from wills and parish registers, anterior to the year 1620, to have been among county families who entered themselves at the Visitation of that date, when the principal Drakes remaining were either indifferent, like many others, or partook of the Puritanical turn that looked down upon the herald's pomp as a worldly vanity. It may suffice to say that his parentage was not "mean" absolutely, but relatively rather to the exalted position that Sir Francis Drake afterwards attained. The documentary evidences fix his connections among the lesser gentry, and when population was sparse the gentle families of a district, by their constant intermarriages, were necessarily bound by common ties of blood. A scheme will be given exhibiting relationship between Hawkins and Drake of Tavistock,⁷ with which we can connect the greater number of Sir Francis's captains, and the men who deemed it honour to place themselves under his command were of the best blood of the two counties, which would hardly have been the case had he been of the degree some represent him to have been.

"Such were magnanimous Drake's accomplices,
Not of the vulgar base inglorious sort,
But such did follow wars as ruled in peace,
Whose very names their fortune did import.
Such rare adherents did to Drake resort,
As he that but their ominous names once heard,
Did either vanquished yield or fly afeard."

FitzGefferey. Stanza 126.

⁴ Chancery Proceedings, Kelly *v.* Drake, A. D. 1584.

⁵ Sta. Pa. Dom., 16th Jan. 1589. Vol. ccxxii., No. 18.

⁶ Sta. Pa. Dom. add., vol. xxx. 1858. No. 125.

⁷ See p. 387.

It is but fair to examine the authorities on which biographers have relied for their derogatory opinions.

Camden is accounted the standard authority, because he was personally acquainted with Drake, and declared he would relate nothing but what he had heard direct.⁸ But his meaning has been misunderstood; he wrote in Latin, and to save trouble his copyists have referred to the English translations. His words were, "Sub id tempus in Angliam rediit Franciscus Dracus. Hic ut non alia referam, quam quæ ab ipso audiui natus est loco mediocri in comitatu Devonix, è sacro lavacro à Francisco Russellio, postea Bedfordix Comite, susceptus, qui prænomen pro more indidit, &c."

A modern would construe "natus est loco mediocri" into "He was of middle-class parentage," to which the older translator's words "of mean parentage" were fairly equivalent in their time. But words have suffered changes, and although the old meaning is retained in the phrases Arithmetic, Geometric or Harmonic, *mean* as the middle term between two extremes, or *the Golden Mean*, the epithet *mean*, when applied to persons, assumes quite a different character, and drives them from the middle status to the bottom of the social scale.

Then comes the inconsistency, that Francis Russell should have undertaken to stand sponsor, at the sacred font, for an infant of the class alleged, when the duties of the office were regarded more seriously than is imagined in these days of laxity. Camden, who lived close to the time, was able to judge, and would not have repeated the story had he thought it improbable, and moreover, being a Herald, could have decided the question of later controversy, whether it was competent for Francis Russell to have been the god-father.

John Stow, the "painefull writer of the English Chronicles," who "professed that his only paines and care was to write truth," states that "Francis Drake was son of Edmond Drake of Tavistock, Saylor;" that "he was the eldest of 12 brethren brought up under his kinsman Sir John Hawkins," and that "he was lawfully married unto two wives both young." Fuller (who had his information from his parishioner Henry Drake, the nephew of Sir Bernard, and companion of Sir Francis) says his father was a minister; and

⁸ Annals of Q. Eliz., vol. ii. p. 351.

a collection of notes at the Museum in Stow's handwriting has this passage, "for Fraunces Drake Kuyght sone to Sir — Drake vickar of Upchurche in Kent.⁹ Hasted's list of Vicars commences with Edmund Drake's successor, but the character attributed to Stow encouraged us to follow his painstaking, and led to the discovery of the Institution among the Lambeth Registers¹ (Archbishop Parker's).

"Upchurch. Cant. dioc. vicar. 25 die mensis Jan. A.D. 1560, apud Lambehith. Dñs admisit Edmund Drake cleric' ad. v. pr. (sic) Eccl. p'och' de Upchurch° Cant. per mortem ultimi vicari ibidem vacant' ad present' Custodis et socior' collegii animar' omnium fidelium defunctor' de Oxonia veri &c." f. 347, b.

"Upchurch Cant. dioc. vicar' de 3 die mensis Mar. A.D. 1567, apud Lambehith Dñs admisit Will. Lutwiche Cleric' ad. v. pt. Eccl. p'och. de Upchurche Cant. per mort' ultimi vicarii ibidem vacant' ad present' custod'et socior' collegii omnium animarum fideliar. defunctor. Oxon. veri &c." f. 381, a.²

His will was proved at Canterbury, the 16th of January, 1566, and was written the day before his burial. It commences thus :—

"In the name of God amen. the xxvi of decesember in anno domini 1566. be it known unto all men Edmonde Drake vicare de^{of} (sic) Upchurche in Kent make my last will and testament in manner and fforme fflowlueinge, ffirst I dowe beleve assured that I am Redeemed by the bloud of Christ as of a lambe undeffed^{led} (undefiled) and wt^{out} spote, therfor I comyt my sole in the handes of my mercyfull lord god, and my bodye to burrid in Upchurche by my sonne Edward Drake, by the graves of Bleshendons howshold." It is very quaint and rambling, and mentions his son Thomas the younger his executor, then with Mr. Baker in London. We presume he died a widower, from his affectionate tribute to his nurse and his instructions, "Remember my wyeff to be

⁹ Harl. MSS. 540, fo. 93, vol. iv. Stow's MSS.

¹ Add. MSS. 6088. Plut. clxxii. H. Archbp. Parker's Reg.

² We gather from Ackerman's Hist. of the University of Oxford that J. Warner, M.D., Regius Professor of Physic, was elected Warden of All Souls in A.D. 1536, resigned in 1555, from a secret affection for the protestant religion, which might ex-

pose such a conspicuous person to the Marian persecution. Again appointed in 1583 A.D., he was instructed by Queen Elizabeth in 1559 to visit, with others, and cleanse the Universities of superstitious things, to reinstate such as had been expelled for their religion and to annul Cardinal Pole's statutes. The present Warden has kindly searched the books and found no record of Edmond Drake.

new sett in the beginning of the Romaynes and so trem the bocke and kepe in bosom and fed upon. Remember make miche of the bible that I dowe here send the wth all the Rest of godly bocks." He requests Richard Sawle, one of the witnesses, "to stand his good friend." Sawle was then assessed at Upchurch,³ and was probably a Tavistock admirer of Drake's, and he had many, for the number of communicants in his time exceeded any ever known in the parish. The Sawle family was then seated in Tavistock⁴ and was connected with Drake, through Hawkins, and with Tremayne⁵ (see Scheme). In 1552 Richard Sawle levied a fine of Thomas Drake and Margery his wife on lands in Beer Ferris, south of Tavistock.⁶

The circumstance of the wife's portrait, which was to be "new sett in the beginning of the Romaynes" is indicative of a certain degree of refinement, for few of the lower grade possessed such a thing in those days. The painter, by the way, might have been John Bossom (a Devonshire name); "that most rare english drawer in black and white, who, growing poorer, grew into love with God's divine service upon the liberty of the Gospel at the coming in of Queen Elizabeth, and became a *reading Minister!*"⁷ and Strype mentions one Bosome's wife, who narrowly escaped martyrdom at Richmond in the time of Mary.

Stow's further evidence, that Sir John Hawkins was Drake's kinsman, should have kept the popular opinion of Drake's origin in check. On referring to the early part of Sir John's will we found this sentence, "To my very good Cosyn Sir Francis Drake, Knight, my best jewell which is a crosse of Emerode."⁸ And before dismissing Stow, we may state here, that the wives of Sir Francis were Mary Newman, married 3rd July, 1569, and buried 25th January, 1582-3;⁹ his second wife was Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir George Sydenham; she survived, and married Sir William Courtenay of Powderham.

Reverting to Camden, he relates that when Drake was of

³ Lay Subsidy Roll.

⁴ Lay Subsidy Roll.

⁵ Thos. Sawle of Tavistock, had married Constance Tremayne, the aunt of Thos. Tremayne, the Executor of the Rev. Wm. Drake's will, before quoted.

⁶ Rot. Fin. Easter, 6 Ed. VI.

⁷ Walpole's Painters.

⁸ "Prerogative Court of Canterbury." Drake 26 and 50.

⁹ Parish Registers, St. Budeaux, and St. Andrews, Plymouth. The marriage settlement of the second wife is dated 10th Feb., 27th Eliz., and recited in the Inq. p. m. of Sir Francis Drake.

tender years, his father, having embraced the Protestant religion, was called to account under the Six Articles Act of Henry VIII., and fled into Kent. After the death of Henry, he read prayers to the sailors in the Royal fleet, was ordained deacon, and made Vicar of Upnor Church by the Medway, where the fleet was stationed. That for "Upnor" should be read "Upchurch" has been already shown, and having rectified this error, we may consider whether we have been equally misled by an unintentional deviation of Camden's respecting the flight of Edmund Drake into Kent, especially as he contradicts himself in the *Britannia* by stating that Plymouth "gave being" to Sir Francis.

Let us recall, that in 1549, the new possessors of the Abbey lands had enclosed the commons for sheep farms; wool becoming more valuable, villages were demolished to get rid of the inhabitants, rents increased, and food became dearer; hence arose discontent throughout the nation. On Whit-Sunday, when the new Liturgy was introduced, the parish priest of Sampford Courtenay exhorted his people to rise in behalf of the Romish religion. The commotion spread. Humphrey Arundell put himself at the head of the Cornish insurgents, and Lord Russell was sent to oppose them. They marched to Exeter with the Host and Romish emblems borne before them. They demanded among other things the restoration of the "Six Articles," which drew forth the King's reply touching the Bloody Statute. "Know ye what ye require? They were laws made but quickly repented. Too bloody they were to be borne. O subjects, how are ye trapped by evil persons, we took them away because they were bloody, and ye ignorantly ask them again."¹

Edmund Drake might have been of the number then dispossessed, and been thus compelled to seek a new home. Or perhaps, from being on too good terms with the family of his son's godfather, namely the Russells, who held the lands of the Abbey of Tavistock, he might have become a marked man, and been obliged on account of this "Six Articles" insurrection to fly into Kent, there to retaliate by instilling into his son's mind the sentiments destined to shatter the power of the persecution.²

¹ Carte, B. xvi., and Southey, "Book of the Church," p. 262.

² One branch of the Drakes held lands

under Cranmer's family in Nottingham, near Leicestershire, and the Archbishop's grandfather, Edmund Cranmer, witnessed

It is a remarkable coincidence that William Drake the pluralist, rector and vicar, whose influence in those parts might have protected Edmund, had died in the previous year; and if the above conjecture concerning the Six Articles prove correct, the discrepancies respecting Francis Russell would vanish.

The work next in favour for biographical reference, is Prince's "Worthies of Devon," and the charm investing his well-known anecdote, rendered it so exceedingly popular, that any attempt to confute it with mere contradictory traditions, would be hopeless, for the spell of romance is too fascinating to be readily broken, and the truth-seeker must keep even his probabilities in reserve behind an array of hard facts.

Prince was a *protégé* of the Drakes of Ash, and stated that his god-father, Sir John Drake of Trill, was his informant. His story is, that Sir Bernard Drake, meeting Sir Francis at court, gave him a box on the ear for assuming the red wyvern for his arms, and that the Queen, resenting the affront, bestowed on Sir Francis "a new coat of everlasting honour," and to add to the discomfiture of Sir Bernard, caused the red wyvern "to be hung up by the heels in the rigging of the ship" on Sir Francis' crest.³ This story had gone the general round in print, till Barrow first discredited it,⁴ while Miss Agnes Strickland has embellished it with fresh inventions, and not to be outdone by the fecundity of the "Black Crows," has transformed the solitary wyvern into three!⁵

This attractive anecdote has probably misled more than one family of the name. The Drakes of Yorkshire, whose pedigree Watson, about one hundred years ago, asserted "is such as for antiquity and authenticity will not often in private families be exceeded" beginning "before surnames were introduced,"⁶ and the ancient Drakes of Ireland, who once bore a dragon gules,⁷ and were Sheriffs of Meath⁸

John Drake's will. Prob. Court, York, 1503. This branch had the name Edmund among them, and there are sufficient independent grounds for belief, that an intercourse was maintained between the woolstaplers of Leicester, and Tavistock; but to enlarge here would be out of place.

³ Prince's Worthies. Life of Sir Bernard Drake, p. 245.

⁴ Barrow's Life of Sir Francis Drake.

⁵ Queens of England, by Agnes Strickland, vol. iv., p. 451.

⁶ History of Halifax, by the Rev. John Watson, M.A., F.S.A., printed 1775, p. 251.

⁷ Carew MSS., vol. 635.

⁸ Rot. Pat., Irish.

before the settlement in Ash, both re-import their arms from Devon, as if through Ash. Another Irish branch, who, when in England, bore the red wyvern, has abandoned it for the arms in the new grant to Sir Francis.

Sir John Drake was not born till after the death of his great-grandfather, Sir Bernard,⁹ and Prince wrote more than thirty years after Sir John's death.¹ The story might have been told to amuse Prince as a boy. One part is known to be incorrect, which leads us to distrust the remainder. There is no mention of the hanging up of the wyvern by the heels in the original grant to Sir Francis, nor did we ever see it so ignominiously treated, but it repeatedly occurs standing upright on the bulwark of the ship, like the red eagle in the arms of Maconnel of Cantire,² and is so placed in the arms on Drake's portrait belonging to the Plymouth Corporation, also over Drake's bust in the Great Hall at Buckland Abbey, and likewise in the vignette of the rare edition of Drake's voyages, printed in 1628, for Nicholas Bourne. In each and every particular it is an honourable charge: more than this Sir Francis used it, with the eagle crest, conceding to it the first quarter, and it is to be seen in his engraved portrait,³ which (for reasons not necessary to be given here,) we believe to be the best resemblance of the man. It was also quartered by him on his seal till the time of his death,⁴ and in one of our exploring trips, when at Buckland Abbey, we discovered high up on the left flank of a chimney-piece, in an old part of the house, a shield similar to that on the

⁹ Sir Bern. Inq. p. m., 1586. Admon., 1587, Doc. Com.

¹ Sir John Drake died 1669. Will. (P. C. C., 159, Coke.)

² Carew MSS., vol. 635.

³ Print room, B. Mus., and Bethnal Green Mus.

⁴ Lansdown MSS., vol. 70, and Harl. MSS., 4762, fo. 132. The latter document is as follows:—"1595. xxiiij die Julii anno R. Elizabeth xxxvij. "The same day and yeare We Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkyns, Knights, do acknowledge by theis presents that Sr Thomas Baskerville, Knight, shall have the adventure of five hundred Pounds of current English money, in this voidag. To be (by God's permission) performed into forrayn parts, with sixe of her Ma^{ty}s Shippes and soundrie other marchants Shippes latelie comytted to our chardges. And according to the same some, the

said Sr Thomas Baskerville his Executors or Assigns shall receive the profyte of suche comodities as shall be returned in the same voidag, ratable and as farre fourth as her Ma^{ty}e or any other adventurer shall have in the like case.

"Given under our handes, the daie and yeare first above wrytten.

"Fra: Drake. John Hawkins.



See fig. 1. on plate of Illustrations at end.

"Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins, and Sir Thomas Baskerville were men for their valour and experience as eminent as England had any."—Sir Walter Raleigh's Apology for the Voyage to Guiana.

seal and portrait, with the charges in alto-relievo, a discovery now first made public.⁵

This shield is also given with the quarterings in reverse order, in a copy of the Herald's Visitation, A.D. 1620,⁶ and other MSS. at the British Museum.

The wyvern is set up in Reigate church to the memory of Henry Drake before-named, who died in 1609, and is on a seal attached to a Lay Subsidy roll of the time of Henry VII., for the Hundred of Tavistock, when the Drakes were of good standing, and the Commissioners, John Harris, Thomas Tremayne, Humphrey Prydaux, John Arscott, and John Charles, were all of Drake connection.

A sagacious man like Sir Francis would not have stultified himself and risked the Queen's displeasure, by restoring a coat if she had put it down, or by giving it precedence over her mark of favour, unless warranted by antiquity and right, and he would rather have consigned to oblivion such an incident as Prince narrates, than have revived its remembrance.

A manuscript of Devonshire evidences, written by Le Neve, and now in the library of Charles Prideaux Brune, Esq. of Padstow, to which Sir John Maclean kindly called my attention, contains sketches of the eagle displayed, and the wyvern, taken from seals attached to muniments of the Drake family of a date⁷ anterior to the period first assigned to family heraldry, wherein the Christian names Roger and Ralph appear. These were very common names in the Tavistock family, and continued to be borne by them till comparatively recent times. One Roger was the third Governor of India, then styled Administrator; he died in 1758. We possess copies of wills, state records, and parish registers, showing an unbroken continuance of these names—and prevailing names always afford good presumptive family evidence—Roger le Drak, temp. Ed. I., was the first of the name that Sir William Pole could quote, and it

⁵ That Sir Francis possessed some ancestral pride is manifested by his placing the ancient wyveru or dragon in the first quarter of his shield, and by his substituting the old eagle for the questionable heraldry of Robert Cook, Clarencieux. A globe, a ship, an arm, a cloud, and a motto, could not easily have

been crowded together on a helm, and Sir Francis seems to have been fully alive to the absurdity.

⁶ Harl. MSS. 1080.

⁷ Probably of the time of Henry II. Dr. Roger Drake was a celebrated divine and ejected nonconformist.

should be noted that neither name, Ralph nor Roger, is ever found in the Ash family. In point of antiquity, it may be said of the Tavistock line, that before Ash began—

“ Their primeval race was run.”

But the strangest thing is that the Drakes of Ash never bore the wyvern themselves before the time of Sir Bernard, and no evidence of its use by them has been produced earlier than the Herald's Visitation of 1620, a quarter of a century after the death of Sir Francis! Their arms were *Argent, a chevron purple, or gules, between three halberts sable*, and of this fact the following evidence exists:—

First. In the MSS. Devonshire Collection⁸ of Cotgrave the Herald, deceased about 1584, whose work came successively into the keeping of other heralds,⁹ and was much prized. It describes father and son, respectively, thus—“ John Drake is of Ash in Denshir, Barnard Drake of Mount Drake in Denshir.” The arms above given being with difficulty legible in the original, some interpolator has reproduced them in a more modern hand, and over the name of Sir Bernard he has inserted “ Drake of Mount Drake, A. a wyvern G.”

Secondly. The Cottonian MSS., Claud. C. II., fol. 156.¹

Thirdly. In a copy of the Visitation of Devon by William Harvey, Clarendieux, in 1565, the above coat is tricked out, followed by all the Ash quarterings in proper order (see fig. 2A at end), and no other coat exists in the College of Arms prior to the year 1620, for Drake of Ash.

Fourthly. This coat was taken by Joseph Holland in 1579, from Shute House, near Ash, the residence of Sir William Pole, whose grandmother was a Drake of Ash.²

Enough has perhaps been said, without citing family traditions, in refutation of Prince's story. If there ever was any altercation, however, about the arms borne by the Drakes, then surely Sir Francis had the best of it, unless, indeed, he had aspired to the halberts, of which Sir Bernard preserved a memento, by placing one in the grasp of a hand on his crest.³ But we have evidence that the families of Sir Ber-

⁸ Harl. MSS., 3967.

⁹ Brooke and Segar.

¹ Ireland Drakes. Ar. a dragon g.
Devon Drakes. Ar. chevron p. 3 (halberts) s.

² Harl. MSS., 5871.

³ Coll. of Arms. Visit. Dev., 1620. See also fig. 2A, at the end for the crest retained by Drake of Ash in 1620.

nard and Sir Francis were on most friendly footing. The court influence of the latter was worth cultivating, and Richard Drake, the brother of Sir Bernard, was made Equerry to the Queen. He was doubtless under pecuniary obligation to Sir Francis respecting the manor of Yarcomb, which Sir Francis by his will⁴ desired should be restored to him on payment of 2000*l.* to Thomas Drake, and what is more extraordinary Sir Bernard was bound by gratitude for the forbearance of his creditor, having mortgaged Ash mansion house and lands to Sir Francis, who, before setting out on his last voyage, had pledged Sir Bernard's son and heir, John Drake, that should the voyage prove "a saving" one, the estate of Ash should be surrendered "to him free, and without paying anything."⁵

Richard failed, through lapse of time, to recover Yarcomb, and angry feeling arose in consequence.⁶ He appears to have been a favourite with Sir Francis, who styles him cousin, and entrusted him with the keeping of Don Pedro de Valdez, the Armada captive, for two years.⁷ Richard's son was named Francis, and was ancestor of the Drakes of Amersham. The estate of Ash subsequently gave rise to a suit in chancery⁸ between John Drake, the heir of Sir Bernard, and Thomas, the heir of Sir Francis, and the Bill and Answer bear internal evidence of the friendly intercourse between the two families in Sir Francis' lifetime. Very probably there was an estrangement after his death, for Thomas Drake quarrelled with everyone,⁹ and the bitter feeling engendered by the lawsuit may have rankled in the descendant of John Drake, when he framed the narrative for young Prince, who repeated it after a lapse of thirty years, perhaps out of jealous zeal for the distinction of the house of Ash, and possibly not in the original form.¹ Still the house of Ash could well hold its own. It recorded better alliances, and quartered more coats than its western cousin, for they were originally of the same stock, and if Tavistock blood produced its unmatched admiral,

⁴ Prerog., Co. Cant. (Drake, 1.)

⁵ Chancery Proceedings, B. & A., Eliz. D. d. b. 9. No. 42, 30th May, 1597.

⁶ Sta. Pa., Dom., 1597, and Chan. Proc.

⁷ Dep. Excheq., 2 Ja. 1., Mich. 19.

⁸ B. & A. Eliz., D. d., B. 9. No. 42.

⁹ Chan. Pro., Drake *v.* Bodenham, and Whitelock, Lib. Fam., p. 12.

¹ "Personal rancour wonderfully enlivens the style * * * Memoirs are often dictated by its fiercest spirit; and then histories are composed from memoirs. Where is *Truth*? Not always in histories and memoirs!"—D'Israeli, *Curiosities of Literature*. Art. Edward IV.

the blood of Ash could set off another Devonshire hero, the consummate general "who never fought a battle without winning it, nor besieged a town without taking it"—John Churchill, the great Duke of Marlborough.²

Sir Bernard Drake's wife was a Fortescue, and his mother was a Grenville.³ Two of the Grenvilles were captains under Sir Francis. One was slain in the voyage of 1585,⁴ and also a Captain George Fortescue, whose autograph is on the inventory attached to Tremayne's letter before spoken of⁵ (p. 368).

Francis, the son of Richard Drake, and nephew of Sir Bernard, was, in his time intimately associated with the chief men of Sir Francis' school of religion.⁶ His wife was the subject of that remarkable memoir, "The Firebrand plucked," or "Trodden-down strength," and their son was one of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct of the clergy in 1647.⁷

Henry Drake, another nephew of Sir Bernard's,⁸ we conclude to have been of the same stamp, from the expressions of affectionate remembrance of Thomas Fuller,⁹ whose evidence and summary are so much the more valuable because this Henry was with Sir Francis in the last voyage. He married the widow of Sir Arthur Champernown,¹ and Gawen Champernown of Dartington in his will bequeathed a ring to Sir Francis to be inscribed with the poesie, "The remembrance of a friend!"² Such notes, trifling in themselves, are important testimony to a truth-seeker, and on this consideration the mention of them may be excused.

Sir Bernard's brother Richard was one overseer of Sir Francis' will. The other overseer, Archdeacon Barrett, of Exeter, son-in-law of Bishop Woolton, "insisted on the clean defacement of superstitious things in churches." Dr. Oliver, the Roman Catholic historian of Exeter, ironically describes him as "credulous in witchcraft and sorcery." The puritanical antipathy to Romish ceremonies was very violent, and Sir Francis and his father were staunch Puritans, as indeed were

² John Churchill was born at Ash and christened at Axminster, his mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Drake of Ash, who, on account of his son-in-law's straitened circumstances, gave up Ash to the young couple, and retired himself to Trill House.

³ Her. Visit, 1620, Dev. Drake of Ash.

⁴ Lipscombe's Bucks, vol. i., p. 600.

⁵ Sta. Pa., Dom., 8th Nov. 1530.

⁶ See Will. Prerog. Co. Cant. (43 Seager.)

⁷ Manning's Surrey.

⁸ Henry Drake of Childhay. Admon. Doc. Com. 1640. Son of Robt. D. of Wiscomb. The brother of Sir Bernard.

⁹ Holy State, p. 129.

¹ Westcot's MSS. and Hutchins' Dorset, and Proc. in Chancery.

² Prerog. Co. Cant., prob., 1592.

most of that family,³ which very fact might have served as an additional recommendation to Elizabeth, whose policy was to unite all sects, and prevent schism in the Protestant camp. The Puritans had the countenance of Leicester, Knollys, Cecil, Walsingham, the Earl of Bedford, and others.⁴ Cadets of the houses of Knollys, Cecil, and Walsingham, served under Sir Francis, and some lost their lives in the service.

Sir Francis Drake left an Uncle John, who was mentioned in Thomas Drake's will, and was buried at Buckland Monachorum, 1610.⁵ Of his eleven brothers, all we can trace with certainty so far, are Thomas, the youngest, his heir; John, slain while too recklessly boarding a Spanish frigate;⁶ Joseph, who died at sea shortly after John⁶ and Edward, buried at Upchurch. Some investigators have insisted that he had a second brother John, which may not be improbable, for the Drakes of Ash yield an instance of two brothers John living at the same time. The second is supposed to be identical with the Mr. John Drake, who obtained the chain of gold promised by Sir Francis to the man who should first sight the rich Spanish ship "Our Lady Conception,"⁷ and who was kept for fifteen months in captivity by the savages on the River Plate.⁸

Before entering into the family connections, we will take leave of our hero. These supplementary gatherings would explain that the misconception of his social degree is due to

³ Wm. Drake, clerk, was presented by Q. Eliz., 4 Ap. 1581, to the vicarage of St. Just, (in Penw. Cornwall) [Bp. Bradbridge Reg.] followed by Wm. Drake, B.A., who was presented by K. James, 2nd Feb. 1621 [Bp. Hall's Reg.]. *Tobias, Thomas, and John Drake, sons and coars. of the last Wm. Drake* [Will. prob., Exon. 1636], signed an agreement to raise and join a company of horse under Sir Francis Arundel, for the Protector's service, 1st May, 1658 [Paroc. Hist. of Cornw. and Buller's St. Just]. The original document is at Castle Hornek, Penzance. A William Drake was minister of Feock, Cornw., in 1601, as appears from the register of the burial of his son *Francis* in that parish. Another Wm. Drake was minister of Gwennap, Cornw., during the Protectorate. He was succeeded by William Crymes, and the Christian names of these several Drake families preserved in their parish registers, with other circumstances, prove them to have been originally from Whitechurch and the neighbourhood

of Tavistock. The more immediate connections and successors of Sir Francis were of the Puritan type. His nephew, Sir Francis Drake, 2nd Bart., was "Colonel of a regiment of horse for the Parliament, called y^e Plymouth Regiment." Thomas Drake, brother of the last-named baronet, "was some tyme Major of horse for y^e Parliament." He married Sarah Crymes, whose brother Ellis Crymes, married his sister Mary Drake, and was Lieut.-Colonel of the garrison of Plymouth for the Parliament (Somaster MSS., Harl. MS., 6861, Brit. Mus.).

⁴ Neale's Hist. of the Puritans.

⁵ Par. Reg. 17 Jan. 1610-1.

⁶ "Drake Revived," pp. 45, 46, and "English Hero," p. 29.

⁷ Hakluyt Soc. World Encom. App.; Thos. Wright, Fam. Voyage of Sir. F. D.

⁸ Purchas, Pilgrims, fol. 1186, 1411. Styled Mr. John Drake by Wright. He was entertained at the Spanish captain's own table after his escape.

our retaining an obsolete meaning of a word, just as a host of other misapprehensions of history arises from our inability to identify ourselves with the spirit of the time.

That Prince's anecdote was a delusion, for the house of Ash could only claim the wyvern as a branch of the ancient Drakes of Devon, and should rather be called the house of Otterton, for they did not obtain Ash till the time of John Drake of Exmouth, Sir Bernard's grandfather.⁹

That so far from being a greedy freebooter, a strong religious sentiment prevailed over all the actions of Sir Francis Drake, and pervaded his letters, which remain as memorials to this day. In addressing the Queen from Plymouth, while awaiting the Armada, he wrote, "Never was a force so strong as this, but the Lord of strength is stronger, and will defend the truth of His word for His own namesake,"¹ and his despatches to Walsingham, after the first encounter, continued to breathe the same firm reliance.

A fervid worship of the God of Justice begat an irrepressible hatred of injustice, and taught Drake that it was criminal tamely to submit to wrong done to himself or to others. Forgetting that the same Creator also made the Spaniard, his puritanical zeal may have led him to expect the right hand of his Maker to undo on demand the work previously done with the left, and disappointment may, or may not, have thrown his mind off the balance at the last; still his conduct throughout life proves that he was influenced first by zeal for God's service, next by devotion to his country and Queen, then by concern for the interest of his co-adventurers, and *last* and *least* of all by consideration for himself.

To say that no other has a greater claim on the gratitude of his country, is only to propound what every reflecting mind must admit.²

⁹ Sir Wm. Pole, Devon., p. 123.

¹ Sta. Pa., Dom., 13 Apr. 1588, vol. ccix., No. 89.

² He opened our trade to the East and West Indies, introduced the potato and tobacco, and founded our naval supremacy.

"His (Sir F. Drake's) notions were free and noble, and the nation stands

indebted to his memory for advantages infinitely greater than are commonly imagined."—Biog. Brit., vol. iii., p. 1739.

"The zeal and activity which these great seamen exerted at this important crisis will always endear their memory to the nation."—Misc. Sta. Pa. Earl of Hardwick, vol. i., p. 579; Introduction to Drake's letters.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES IN ILLUSTRATION OF THE ABOVE.

COPY OF THE BISHOP OF EXETER'S LETTER SENT TO THE FOUR
ARCHDEACONS.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO THE BISHOP OF EXETER.

"Salutem in Christo. your Lordshipp is not ignorant of the great and Worthie enterprise of Sr John Norris and Sr Francis Drake now in action the good success whereof must needes tend to the glorie of God, and to the singular benefitt of his Church, and forasmuch as all goodnes cometh from above and that God only giveth the victorie, I thought it good by these my lres to move yo^r Lordshipp to take diligent care that in every Parish Church wthin yo^r Dioces publicke prayers be had according to the order of the booke, and according to former orders so sett forth by authoritie at the leaste thrise in every weeke, w^{ch} although I doo not doubt you have of y^rself remembered to performe, Yet I thought it not amisse to put you in mynde of the same at this tyme And so wth my hartie comendacons I comitt youe to the tuition of Almighty God.

"from Lambeth the 2nd of Maye 1589."

"These are therefore to will and require you that y^r self and yo^r officers doe wth all convenient speede fulfill and put in Execution the tenor of my Lord Archbisshopps Graces lres wthin yo^r jurisdiction and hereof fail youe not as you will answer at yo^r perill to the Contrarie. Exeter this 10 Maye, 1589.

"Y^r loving ffrinde in Christ,
"JOHN EXON." 3

Since these notes were read at Exeter, an article has appeared in the "Herald and Genealogist," 4 the subject of which we have anticipated and rather fully discussed. We prize tradition too highly to dismiss Prince without trying to sift his anecdote, although his recollection was at fault. Frequently the generation to which a tradition relates is mistaken. We have evidence that Sir Francis was on good terms with his kin, but Thomas Drake, his successor, was deeply embroiled with Sir Bernard's son, and brother Richard, who says, "Sir Fra's Drake by his will gave my son Francis the manor of Yarcomb in Devonshire, and to Thomas Drake his brother 2000£ within two years of the Testator's death. For this £2000 Thomas agreed with me before witnesses for £1500 ready money, which accordingly I provided within three days." Thomas it appears repudiated.⁵ Richard retaliated by bringing charges of concealment and embezzlement affecting Thomas Drake.⁶ After this, Thomas, perhaps vain of the lustre acquired for his own line, might have dropped the wyvern in disdain, and vaunted Queen Elizabeth's grant in a manner to call forth such a retort as is described by Prince, but, what is significant, is that the Drakes of Ash subsequently *nowed* the tail of their wyvern.

We cannot suppose that a conspiracy existed among the early writers

³ Book of Acts, Exon, Vol. A. 1.

⁴ Part XLVI. Jan. 1874.

⁵ Cal. Sta. Pa., Dom., vol. cclxv. No. 72, 1597.

⁶ Cal. Sta. Pa., Dom., vol. cclxxvi. No. 20.

to mislead ; therefore, it must be admitted that Sir Bernard Drake changed the coat of Ash.

The Hamptons resided in Marystow,⁷ about six miles north of Tavistock. The daughter and co-heiress of Warren Hampton carried Ash by marriage to Billet, whose daughter and heiress married John Drake, a wealthy merchant of Axmouth. Whence did he come? The Lay Subsidy Rolls and other documents show the name of Drake connected with the country, extending from Tavistock beyond Marystow. It is common for merchants to settle in a convenient trading port, and several of the Ash family were of a seafaring turn.

Sir Francis Drake styled Richard Drake, the brother of Sir Bernard, "cousin," and perhaps with some reason known to themselves ; for we have conversed with a man who, in middle age, was intimate with our ancestor born in the reign of Charles II., or nearly two hundred years ago.

The Drakes of Devon, Dorset and Somerset are all one. An enterprising race, they dotted the coast line round to Norfolk, and then spread inland. We do not despair of bringing all under one head, or of reducing them to two main branches, Devon and York, the unity of whose source is at present obscured.

"GRANT OF ARMS TO SIR FRANCIS DRAKE."⁸

"Whereas it hath pleased the Queen's most excellent Ma^{ty} graciously to regard the prayseworthy deserte of Sir Francis Drake Knight and to remunerate the same in him not only with the hono^{ble} order of Knighthood, and by sundry other demonstrations of her highnes especial favour, but alsoe further desirous that the impressions of her princely affection toward him might be as it were immortally devised and conveyed to his offspring and posterity for ever, hath assigned and given unto him Armes and tokens of virtue and honor answerable to the greatness of his deserts and meete for his place and calling, That is to say, of Sable a fess wavy betwene two Starres argent, the helm adorned with a globe terrestrial upon the height whereof is a shippe under sayle trained about the same with golden haulsers by the direction of a hand appearing out of the cloudes all in proper colour, with these wordes, Auxilio Divino, The said Armes with all other the partes and ornaments thereof heere in the margent depicted. I Robert Cooke Esq^r al's Clarenceux King of Armes of the East West and South partes of the Realme of England, according as the duties of myne office binde me, have caused to be registered entred and recorded for perpetuall memory with the Armes and other honorable and heroicall monuments of the nobility and gentry within my said province and marches. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name the twentieth day of June in the yeare of our Lord God 1581, and in the xxiiijth of the prosperous Raigne of our most gracious Souveraigne Lady Queen Elizabeth etc.

"ROBERT COOKE AL'S CLARENCEUX
"Roy D'Armes."

We are indebted to the courtesy of the gentlemen at the Herald's College for their valuable assistance in discovering the following notes in the Volume

⁷ Risdon, Survey of Devon, p. 280.

⁸ Harl. MSS. 1422. fo. 4.

F. 12 fo. 162-163, which contains another draft of the grant with certain passages cancelled by a pen line drawn through them after they were written. Following the name of Sir Francis Drake, as in the above, there originally stood "who of an exceeding great love and zeal to her highnes and his country, hath not spared to adventure and hazard his lyf and to weare his body with longe and paynfull travell into dyvers and sondry partes of the world never hitherto founde owte by any of this nation, whereby through the favourable permission of Almightye God there is greate hope of the wynninge of new heathen nations from infidelitie to the knowledge of God and of his Sonne Jesus Christ our redimer, and therefore no small hon^r renowne and comoditie like to redound to this our country."

For "deserts" in the Harleian grant stood "navigations and enterprizes." There are also other variations, viz., after the words "cloudes all in proper colour" stood "a read dragon volant sheweth itselfe regardinge the said direction with these wordes Auxilio divino to notifie the divyne providence; the sayd in manner here above depicted (*sic*) which is always wont to guyde and direct all godly enterprize." Towards the close stood, "and have further thought meete in this maner to blazon and describe the same in their true metalles and colours to be by him the sayd Sir Francys Drake Knight and his posterity rightly und^rstoode and comodiously used to his and their estimacion and worshippe at all tyme for ever hereafter at his and their libertie and pleasure."

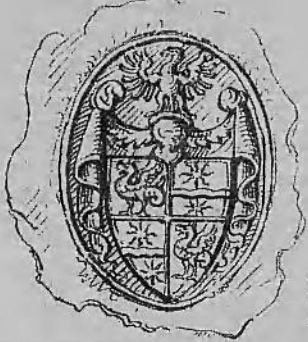
On folio 164 appears the following important memorandum, which should be conclusive:—

"Barnard Drake of _____ in the County of Devon Esq^r (the word "yet" erased) notwithstanding the sayd Sr Fraunces Drake may by prerogative of his birth and by right descent from his auncestor bear the arms of his surname and family to wit, Argent, a Waver Dragon geules, with the difference of a third brother, as I am credibly informed by the testimony of Barnard Drake of _____ in the County of Devon Esquier Chief of that Cotarmure, and sondry others of that family of worship and good credit."

The Diagrams Fig. 2. A B and C in the accompanying illustration are reduced. A in facsimile. B and C are designs in the College of Arms, in honour of Sir Francis Drake, drawn probably by Vincent.

FIG. 1.

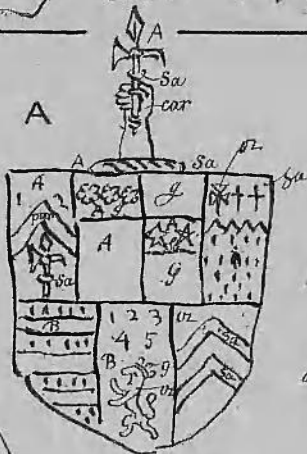
H. Drake of the Admiralty



Drake de
Devon.

FIG. 2.

- Drake . 1
- Bellett . 2
- Hampton . 3
- Orwau . 4
- Oswall . 5
- Delafou . 6
- Espe . 7



B
NON SINE NUMINE.



H. H. DRAKE.

LIST OF VESSELS, WITH NAMES OF CAPTAINS, SERVING UNDER SIR F. DRAKE, FROM THE ROYAL
MSS. (14. B. XIII.—18. C. XXI.) AND MSS. HARL. 366, FOL. 146, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED NOTES SHOWING HOW THEY WERE SEVERALLY CONNECTED WITH DRAKE.

Names of Captains serving under Sir Francis Drake.	Name of Ships.	How connected with Drake or the Counties of Devon and Cornwall.
Thomas Drake Giles Vaughan	Harfuaage al's Thomas Weymon	Brother of Sir Francis. Brother-in-law of Sir John Hawkins, the cousin of Sir Francis (<i>v.</i> Tho. Maynard, voy. Sir F. D.).
John Greenefield or Grenville	Virgin, God's Mother	Thomas Tremayne (the father of Drake's friend, Edmund Tremayne, and mentioned in the Rev. Wm. Drake's will). John Fitz of South Tavistock, before-mentioned, and John Drake, the father of Sir Bernard, had each married a daughter of Roger Grenville of Stowe. Sir Richard Grenfield was slain commanding Sir Francis Drake's favourite ship, the "Revenge," fighting against great odds.
George Fortescue William Hawkins Will. Winter Edw. Winter	Bonner Griffin Minion Tyde	Sir Bernard Drake mar. Gertrude Fortescue, dau. of Bartholomew F. of Filley. Related to Drake. One Will. Winter married Alice Langdon (sister-in-law of Drake of Tavistock), and named his son Francis Winter. Ric. Winter, of Truro, has a legacy by the will of Henry Drake, prob. Archd. Court of Convo., 1603.
John Sellinger or St. Leger	Sellinger	Ric. Grenville, above, married the daughter of Sir John St. Leger, of Annery, Devon. Edmund Tremayne (Drake's warm friend) married another daughter of the same St. Leger.
James Erisey, a Cornishman	Dudley	His grandmother, Christiana, was a daughter of Roger Grenville, and sister of Anne Grenville, wife of John Drake. His aunt Honor, married Tucker, related to Drake (State Papers).
Ambrose Mannington	Mannington	His great-grandmother was a Trecarrel <i>alias</i> Esse (<i>i. e.</i> Ash). His grandmother, a Tremayne, and his brother married the grand-daughter of Sir John Hawkins, all connected with Drake. (Mannington's lands were in Calstock, not far from Croundale, Drake's birth place.)
Edw. Grenville Humphry Sidnam	Thomas and Swallow Unitie	Died at Carthagen (Lipscombe, "Hist. of Bucks," vol. i., p. 600). Sir Francis' second wife was Elizabeth Sidnam or Sydenham.

Names of Captains serving under Sir Francis Drake.	Name of Ships.
Geo. Fenner	Leicester, Galleon)
Tho. Fenner	Eliz. Bonaventure and Dread- nought)
Henry White	Bark, Talbot and <i>Sea Dragon</i>)
Thos. Mone or Mohun	Bark, Francis
Jacob Whitton or Whiddon	Roobuck
— Pridiox	Hawkins
— Wylford	Gardelin
— Vivian	
A. Seigar	Golden Noble
Wm. Sparke	Sparke
John Rashleye	The Francis of Fowey
Tho. Seeley	Eliz. Drake
— Martyn	Benjamin
— Giles	
— Pole	Bond)
— Rivers	Plymouth. Hope of)
— Holland	Diamond Drake)

There were four of the name Captains against the Armada. Rebecca Fenner was god-daughter of Richard Drake of Eshur, *see will*. Fenner was of a Puritanical sect, *see his letter to Walsingham*. Fenner family was also in Devonshire, and one married Hawkins of Crewkerne.

Letters of Administration were granted to one White to effects of Ralph Drake of Peter Tavy, by Tavistock. Francis Drake of Eshur (cousin of Sir Francis), names his cousin John White in his will. (White of Plymouth, Heralds' Visit. 1620). The will of John Drake of Coleridge, 1724, is sealed with the arms of Sir Thomas White, *knt*, who died in 1566, *see portrait*, Exeter Council Chamber.

Mohun of Tavistock married a daughter of Amidas, hence connected with Hawkins (*per scheme*). Ric. Edgcombe of Tavistock, married a daughter of Mohun, and his sister married John Hawkins of Tavistock. Roger Drake of Peter Tavy, near Tavistock, in his will, 1621, names his daughters, Charity and Florence Edgcomb.

Wm. Whiddon married Mary Langdon, the sister-in-law of Drake of Tavistock (*see Scheme annexed*). The Francis Whiddons, father and son, were Puritan divines, and one was ejected for nonconformity.

Pridiox' name was in Tavistock, and the Drakes witnessed the will. Robert Drake of Wiscomb married Eliz. Prideaux: there are several intermarriages of Drakes and Prideauxs. Will. Prideaux of Langford in South Tavistock, married Ethelred Fortescue.

Willford of Tavistock, (*Pedigree in Heralds' Visitation*).

The name was in Tavistock. Ric. Prideaux, Mich. Vivian, and Walter Langdon of Keverell, married three sisters, daughters of Nanspian.

Devonshire family, seated at Highweek.

A Plymouth name. Connected by marriage with Rashleigh of Fowey, Cornwall.

A Devonshire and Cornish family.

Family seated in Plymouth.

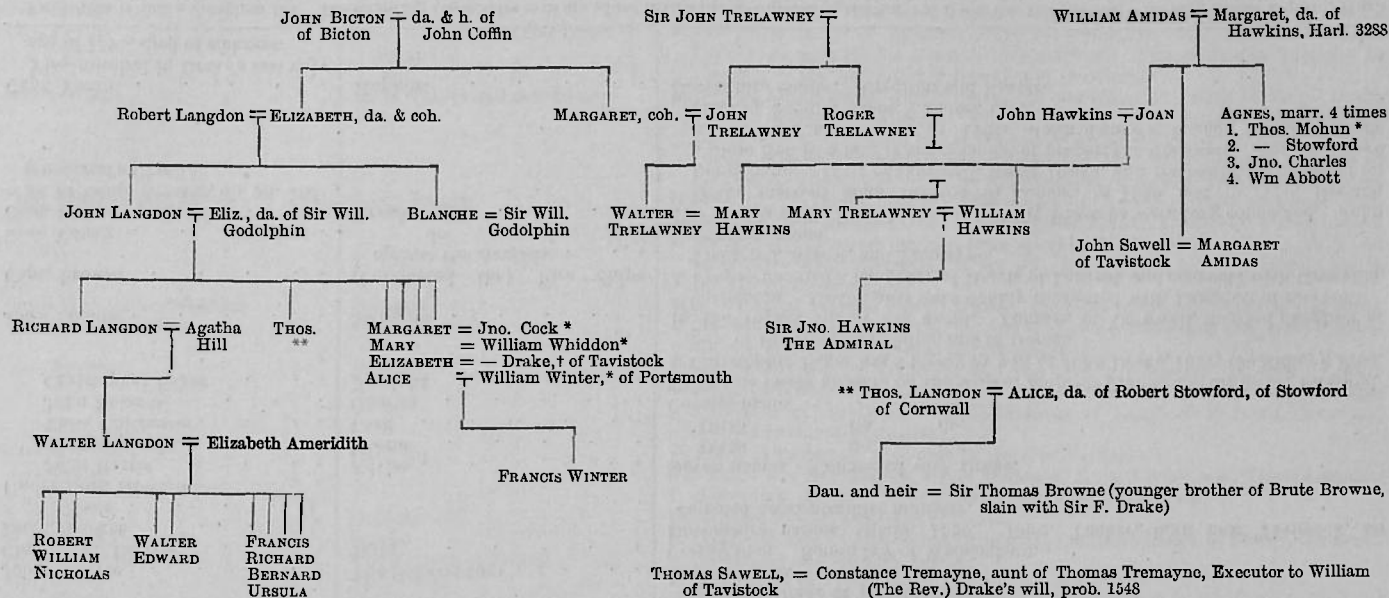
Tavistock and Devon name. Connected with Sir Bernard and Sir Francis' mortgage.

Devonshire. Connected through Blackall with Fortescue, hence with Drake.

Devonshire names.

John Young	Bear	Samuel Young was an ejected nonconformist minister.
— Langford	Buggins	Devonshire. Connected with Fitz and Cole, therefore with Drake.
James Fownes	Chance	Tho. Fones married Prudence Nicholls of Tavistock. Samuel Fownes was an ejected nonconformist minister in Devon.
Capt. Cock	Privateer	The only English Captain killed in the fight with the Armada. He was of Plymouth. John Cock married a daughter of Langdon of Keverell, a sister-in-law of Drake of Tavistock.
John Pentyre	The Bonaventura	Cornish name.
Christopher Carlyle	Tiger	Cornishman. Son-in-law of Walsingham.
Lieut. Tucker	}	Devonshire names. Slain, 1585. Edm. Tucker, born near Tavistock, an ejected nonconformist minister.
„ Escot		
Under Lord Howard :—		
John Harris	Advise	Devon names. Connected with Drake.
Alex. Clifford	Moone	Ditto do. do.
Thos. Chichester	Lark	Ditto do. do.
John Roberts	Charles	Cornish name.
Christopher Baker	Forsight	The name Baker appears on the wills of both Sir Francis and his father Edmund. Christopher Baker has a legacy by will of John Drake, 1629, (90 Ridley), Proc. gen. of the Arches, London, and of Dorset.
John Thomas	Marigold	In the voyage round the world. Thomas, of Cornwall, married daughter of Godolphin. Godolphins were doubly connected with Langdon of Keverell.
Capt. Prowse	(Conducted the) Fire Ships	A Prowse married a daughter of Harris of Lanrest, and connects with Grenville, Trearrell, Arscot, and Tremayne.
— Young	against the Armada	Devonshire name.
Capt. Sir George Beeston	do. do.	The Drakes of Sir Francis' branch and the Beestons were long connected, John Drake married Mary Beeston in London in 1686, and in 1750, Beeston Long, Samuel Long of Cornwall, Roger Drake, and Nathaniel Cole, appear on a Close Roll in a family arrangement of property in Cornwall. Beeston Drake was buried at Croydon in 1764. John Drake's licence to marry Mary Beeston, Faculty Office, London, 1686.
at 89 temp. Armada, ob. æt. 105 (Ormerod's Chesh.)	Dreadnought	Devonshire family. Crediton and Exeter.
Capt. Yorke	Hopkins	
Vice-Admiral in Drake's last voyage of 1595, died of sickness.		

Note.—This is not a complete list. The following Devonshire men are added from a list of captains in the Sta. Pa. Dom. Vol. 186, No. 1585—Bernard Drake, esquier; Hugh Drake, gent.; Richard Drake, gent.; — Drake, gent.; Carewe Rawleyghe, esquier, brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, whose father by his first wife Joan or Alice Drake, aunt of Sir Bernard, had issue John and George, the former married the sister of Sir Bernard Drake's wife; John Rawleyghe, gent.; George Rawleyghe, gent. (his wife was a Drake); James More, gent.; Henry Spert (? Spreat or Speat), gent.; Edw. Moone; Robert Jolley; Tho. Bucks; Powle Kempe.

SCHEME, REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT, SHOWING CONNEXION OF TAVISTOCK FAMILIES.⁹

* Names of Captains under Drake.

† Possibly father of Sir Francis, or a near relative.

NOTE.—The Langdons, after the match with Drake, adopted the Christian names then in vogue among the Drakes, viz. *Francis, Richard, Bernard, Ursula*.

⁹ The early parish registers of Tavistock are lost, or we should probably have discovered the exact relationship between Drake and Hawkins. Under the circumstance it is fortunate to obtain evidence of the match between Drake and Langdon from the Heralds' Visitation.