

## Original Documents.

### A PASSAGE FROM THE OGLANDER MSS. RELATING TO THE ARRIVAL OF CHARLES I. IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

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THE manuscript collections of Sir John Oglander preserved at the family seat of Nunwell, in the parish of Brading—from which the subjoined account of the arrival of Charles I. in the Isle of Wight, hitherto unprinted, is taken—are well known as a storehouse of materials for the history and topography of the Isle of Wight, from which all who have directed their attention to that attractive subject have largely drawn.

These collections are of a very miscellaneous character, and the value of their contents varies considerably. Their chief importance lies in the account of persons and events contemporaneous with the compiler. In historical and archaeological matters, Sir John Oglander is very far from being a safe guide. He possessed no critical discrimination, and recorded what he heard without subjecting his informants' statements to close examination. But in whatever lay under his own observation, he may be accepted as a trustworthy authority, and while his love of gossip and fondness for petty details may often provoke a smile, he has preserved a mass of information which, trivial as it sometimes is, gives us an insight into the social condition of the Isle of Wight, and the mode of life of its principal inhabitants, in the first half of the sixteenth century, for which we should seek in vain elsewhere.

Sir John Oglander was a Royalist to the backbone, and is never weary of lamenting the changed condition of his island home, resulting from the stir and ferment of the great struggle between Charles I. and his Parliament, although from its isolated position it had no share—with the exception of the rashly-attempted rising of Captain Burley at the end of 1647—in the bloody struggle of the time. When contrasting the former prosperity of the Isle of Wight with his own troublous times, he writes :—  
“ Money was then as plenty in yeomen's purses as now in the best of the gentry, and all the gentry full of money and out of debt ; the market full ; the commodities vending themselves at most high rates. If you had anything to sell, you should not have needed to have looked for a chapman, for you would not almost ask but have. All things were exported and imported at your heart's desire ; your tenants rich, and a bargain would not stand at any rate. Then it was *insula fortunata*, now *infortunata*. The Isle of Wight, since my memory, is infinitely undone through the attornies, who have of late made the Isle their resort, and by suits undone the country.” At that happy period, before the shock of civil war had roused the nation from its slumbers, the gentry of the Isle of Wight—feeling, like Tennyson's “ Lotos-Eaters,” that

“ There is no joy but calm ”—

dreamt away their lives in their island home, "making their wills when they went to London, thinking it like an East India voyage; supposing no trouble like to travail"; and having so little necessary intercourse with the mainland that they usually depended for the reception or transmission of letters on the visits of "a coniemman from London who came to buy rabbits." At that happy period of repose the island, "full of knights and gentry beyond compare," was regarded by him as "the Paradise of England," while "now," he writes, a few months subsequent to the date of the narrative about to be presented to the reader, "it is just like the other parts of the kingdom, a melancholy, deserted, sad place—no company; no resort; no neighbourly doings one of another. You may truly say *tempora mutantur*."

It has been already remarked that Sir John Oglander excels in his graphic power of delineation of character. His collections furnish an island gallery almost rivalling John Bunyan's life-like portraits. Commencing with the accomplished Lord Southampton, who, when governor of the island, gathered the gentry round him, dining with them twice a week at the "house of accommodation" erected by him, with a bowling-green attached, adjacent to his residence at East Standen, on St. George's Down, near Newport, as many as thirty having been seen there by Sir John at one time, there pass in succession before us—not mere names or shadows, but living and breathing forms—such island celebrities as "Mr. Emmanuel Badde, a very poore man's son of Newport, bound apprentice to a shoemaker, but who," like the House of Austria, enriched by Venus, "by the blessing of God and the losse of five wyfes, grew very rich, and purchased the Pryory of St. Helen's"; Captain Cooke, of Budbridge, commander of Sandown Castle, "a brave fellow, who came always to Arreton Church in his wrought velvet gown, and twelve of his souldiers with their halberds"; "Father Penrice, an owld owld man," who could tell of his visits as a boy to the abbey church of Quarr, and "what a goodly church it was"; Lord Chief Justice Fleming, a mercer's son in Newport, who "bought Quarr for nothing. So you may see that greate abbey of Quarr founded by Baldwin Ryvers is come now to the posterities of a merchant of Newporte. *O tempora! O mores!*" Mrs. Dowsabill Mills, the buxom widow of the purchaser of the Quarr estate from Fleming, who from her close intimacy with Sir Edward Horsey, the governor ("Ned Horsey, the ruffling cavalier of Arundels," of the plot against Queen Mary, March, 1566, so vividly narrated by Froude<sup>1</sup>)—scandal hinted at a more tender connection<sup>2</sup>—for many years had the sway of the island, and brought up most of its young gentlewomen at the Manor House of Haseley, in the rich vale of Arreton, where in 1582 Sir Edward Horsey died of the small-pox; Sir John Legh, the builder of North Court, at Shorwell, who married Elizabeth, daughter of another island magnate, John Dingley, Esq., "they being first Lord and Ladye at a Maypole together"; Sir Robert Dillington, of Knighton, "the merriest and most compleat gentleman that ever the island had"; the "merry gang of gentlemen that lovede cuppe of sacke and a pretty girl—good

<sup>1</sup> Froude, Hist. of Engl. vol. vi. pp. 434, 438.

<sup>2</sup> "They lived together," writes Sir John, "at Haseley, not without some

taxe of incontinency: for nothing stopped their marryadge but that he had a wife alive in Fraunce."

fellows that when they met at Newport on Saturday afternoon would not parte till Monday morning"; the drunken frolic of Lord Portland, the Governor at the outbreak of the Parliamentary war, with his boon companions, Hicks, Goring, and Weston, in August, 1639, which so grievously scandalised the more sober inhabitants of Newport, when after reducing their clothes to rags by "tearing one another's bands and shirts at each health," they proceeded to the gallows, Goring "making a last dying speech from the top of the ladder, warning the bystanders to take warning by his sad end"; the "cyvill men and good scholars," and those who—so nice were his distinctions—were "cyvill but no scholars"; and closing—though the gallery might be almost indefinitely extended—with the "three gentlewomen of fashion and repute," who alone in the whole island were "accounted in qualified fitting to kepe companye with my Lady Carye" (wife of Sir George Carey, Queen Elizabeth's first cousin, Governor of the island), "Mistress Meux, Mistress Oglander,<sup>3</sup> and Mistress Hobson."

These few specimens of the contents of the Oglander MSS. must strengthen the desire so often expressed that a selection from them might form one of the publications of the Camden Society. I say a selection, for the collections are not only, as I have already remarked, of a very miscellaneous nature, but they are entirely devoid of order and arrangement, frequently scribbled on the blank spaces of ledgers and account-books, and are of so varied a character that it would require considerable discrimination to decide what was worth and what was not worth printing. The much regretted death without issue of the late Sir Henry Oglander, in whom the male line—unbroken, it is stated, since the settlement of the family at Nunwell in the time of Henry I.—has recently terminated, renders it doubtful into whose possession these precious heirlooms have passed. But whoever may be the present guardian of the MSS., he could hardly inaugurate his ownership more gracefully than by entrusting the Memoirs to the Council of the Camden Society, with the request that they would select some one familiar with the history of the Isle of Wight to edit them for the press. Death has unfortunately robbed us of the two gentlemen best qualified for the task, Mr. George Hillier and Mr. J. H. Hearn. But it ought not to be difficult to find an editor combining local knowledge and the literary skill requisite for the task. One, if I mistake not, might be found very close to Nunwell.

This prefatory introduction, though perhaps already too long, would be obviously incomplete without some account of the ancient family of which Sir John Oglander was a representative. It has been often stated that this family derives its descent from Richard de Oglandres, of Caen, who followed William the Conqueror from Normandy, and obtained a grant of the Nunwell Estate from William Fitzosborne, the first feudal lord of the island. This, however, is a mistake, and is refuted by the fact that we do not find the name of Oglander appear at all in Domesday, as belonging to the Isle of Wight. The family does not occur in island history till the time of Richard de Redvers in the reign of Henry I. The first Oglander of Wight was pro-

<sup>3</sup> Mother of Sir John Oglander. She was daughter of Sir Anthony Dillington, of Knighton, and the wife of William

Oglander, of Nunwell, afterwards knighted by James I.

bably a feudal follower of De Redvers, from whom he received the estate on his accession to the lordship. Another of the same name, Peter de Oglander, was chaplain to Richard de Redvers, by whom he was appointed Dean of Christ Church, Twynham, which was afterwards converted by de Redvers from a college of secular canons into an Augustinian priory. The cradle of the family was the castle of Orglandes, in the parish of Valognes, in the department of La Manche. The Chateau d'Orglandes was one of the castles fortified by Henry I. in 1090, during his quarrels with his brothers, William and Robert, of which they did not delay to despoil him.<sup>4</sup> Up to the sixteenth century, the family of Orglandes continued to inhabit their ancestral castle. After that period the property, which was known as *La Hoque*, passed by marriage into various families, and was finally sold shortly before the Revolution. In 1825 the Marquis d'Orglandes, the chief of the French branch, was member of the Chamber of Deputies.

Sir John Oglander, the author of the memoirs, was the son of Sir William Oglander, knighted by James I., and Ann, daughter of Sir Anthony Dillington, of Knighton. The father of Sir William was George Oglander, and his grandfather Oliver Oglander. Sir William died in 1608, and was buried in the south or Oglander chapel of Brading Church. He is commemorated by an altar tomb supporting a full-sized recumbent effigy, carved in wood; a very unusual material. He is clad in complete armour, with his hands clasped in prayer. Sir John Oglander early rose to distinction in his native island. He was knighted and appointed deputy governor of Portsmouth in 1620 by William, Earl of Pembroke, and was made deputy governor of the Isle of Wight by Lord Conway in 1624. His intercourse with his royal master, Charles I., began before his accession to the throne. When Charles visited the Isle of Wight as Prince of Wales, August 27, 1618, he was received by Sir John, who attended him to Carisbrooke and Alvington Down, whence the royal lad, then eighteen years old, took a general survey of the island, and afterwards witnessed a skirmish in the forest. Oglander records in his memoirs that on this occasion, "coming through the castleholde, and being passed by the Sign of the Lyon clawing the Fryar, the Prince turned about his horse to beholde it, and demanded the meaning thereof. Answer was made y<sup>t</sup> we served all Papists and Priestes in y<sup>t</sup> manner." Two years after his accession, June 20, 1627, Charles I. again paid a hasty visit to the Isle of Wight. His object was to make a personal inspection of the Scotch troops then quartered there, to the island's great demoralisation, on their way to join the ill-planned expedition to the Isle of Rhè. Landing at Ryde earlier than was expected, the king found only Sir John waiting to receive him, by whom without other escort he was guided to the place of review at Arreton Down. Here he knighted Barnabas Leigh, of Northcourt, and left again at 3 P.M., having neither eaten nor drunk in the island. This transient intercourse led, as we shall see, to momentous results. Sir John's staunch loyalty was well known. Already he had incurred odium by his fidelity in the exaction of the odious impost of "Ship Money." The following is a copy of an autograph letter of his to Colonel Worsley, of Appuldurcombe, dated March 5, 1637. The spelling is unchanged.

"MR. WOORSELEY,—As you ar a Gentleman whome I love and respect,

<sup>4</sup> Dumoulin, *Histoire de la Normandie*, p. 266.

so I desire you not to fforce mee to Distrayne your Goods for his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s Shipmoneyes. I should be very loft to doo it to any Espetially to your Selfe. As y<sup>e</sup> monyee must be payd to his Ma<sup>ty</sup> so there is littell reason y<sup>t</sup> I should besydes my paynes and care pay it out of my owne purse. Thus hoping you will pay your rates imposed vpon you I rest

“Your ffrynd to command

“JOHN OGLANDER VIC.”

[*i. e.*, Sheriff.]

Charles' personal knowledge of Sir John's noble character, and an exaggerated confidence in his influence in the island weighed much with the misguided monarch in selecting the Isle of Wight as his place of refuge on his escape from Hampton Court in November, 1647. As is well known, the king crossed from Titchfield House to Cowes on the evening of Saturday, November 13, and reached Carisbrooke Castle on Sunday, November 14, confiding himself to the protection of Colonel Robert Hammond, recently appointed Governor of the Isle of Wight by the authority of Parliament. At this point the curious narrative, now for the first time printed, commences. It cannot fail to be read with interest as a hitherto unpublished page of the history of the Great Rebellion, indicating only too clearly the slight enthusiasm felt by the island gentry generally in the king's cause, and the coldness with which his arrival among them was received.

“Certain passages acted by Colonel Hammond our captain, the gentlemen of the island, and myself, since the King's coming into the island, written by me on Tuesday morning, the 16th of November, 1647.

“J. O [GLANDER.]

<sup>5</sup> “Sunday morning, at church, I heard a rumour that the King was that night, being the 14th of November, 1647, landed at Cowes. I confess I could not believe it, but at evening prayer the same day Sir Robert Dillington,<sup>6</sup> sent his servant to me, to inform me of his Majesty's coming into the island, and that our governor, Colonel Hammond, commanded me and my son (as he had done to all the gentlemen of the island) to meet him at Newport the next day, being Monday, by nine in the morning. Truly this news troubled me very much; but on Monday morning I went to Newport, where I found most of the gentlemen of the island; and not long after Hammond came, when he made a short speech to us, which, as well as my old memory will give me leave, was thus, or to this purpose: ‘Gentlemen, I believe it was as strange to you, as to me, to hear of his Majesty's coming into this island. He informs me necessity brought him hither, and that there were a sort of people near Hampton Court (from whence he came) that had voted, and were resolved to murder him (or words to that effect); and therefore, so privately, he was forced to come away, and so to thrust himself on this island, hoping to be here secure. And now Gentlemen, seeing he is come amongst us, it is all our duties to preserve his person, and to prevent all comings over into our island. I have already stopped all pass-

<sup>5</sup> The spelling has been unfortunately modernised in the transcript from which this is printed.

<sup>6</sup> Of Knighton, in Newchurch parish.

ages in our island, except three (Ryde, Cowes, and Yarmouth), and at them have appointed guards. Now I must desire all you to preserve peace and unity in this island as much as you can. I hear there are some such persons as his Majesty feared, but I hope better. But to prevent it, I would give you these cautions. If you see or hear of any people, in any great number, gathered together, whatsoever be their pretence, I would have you dissipate them, or timely notice given to me of it. Also, if there be any of those formerly spoken of (levellers), such as his Majesty fears, that shall offer to come into this island, you must do your endeavours to oppress them; and all things else for the preservation of his Majesty's person. And to this end I shall desire all the captains to come and renew their commissions, that they may be the better authorized hereunto. Lastly, I must tell you I have sent an express to Parliament to signify his Majesty's being here, and as soon as I receive any answer I shall acquaint you with it.' . . . After this speech Sir Robert Dillington moved the Colonel, to know whether the gentlemen might not, after dinner, go up to his Majesty to express their duties to him. The Colonel answered, 'Yes, by all means! it would be a fit time when the King had dined; and truly I would invite you all to dinner,' said he, 'had I any entertainment; but, truly, I want extremely fowl for his Majesty,' intimating, thereby, that he wanted the gentlemen's assistance, whereupon I and others promised him, to send in to him what we had. So he thanked us, and returned to the castle to his Majesty.

"Now, when we had dined, we all went up to Carisbrook Castle, where we had not stayed above half an hour, but his Majesty came to us; and after he had given every man his hand to kiss, he made this speech, but not in these words, but as well as my memory will give me leave to this effect:—

"Gentlemen, I must inform you that, for the preservation of my life, I was forced from Hampton Court; for there were a people called levellers, that had both voted and resolved of my death, so that I could no longer dwell there in safety. And desiring to be somewhat secure, till some happy accommodation may be made between me and my Parliament, I have put myself on this place; for I desire not a drop more of Christian blood should be spilt, neither do I desire to be chargeable to any of you; I shall not desire so much as a capon from any of you, my resolution in coming here being but to be secured, till there may be some happy accommodation made.'

"After this he caused Mr. Legg, one of his servants, to read a kind of remonstrance, which it seemeth he left at Hampton Court when he went thence; but I shall forbear writing of that, it being in print. . . . Mr. Legg demanded of me, 'What if a greater number of these levellers should come into our island than we were able to resist? What course could there be for his Majesty's preservation?' I answered, 'None that I knew, but to have a boat ready to convey him into the mainland.' These were all the passages on that day; and on the Thursday following it pleased his Majesty to come to my house at Nunwell, as much unexpected by me as his coming into the island.

"J. O.

"When we came the Monday to Carisbrook Castle, his Majesty was

then busy in writing these propositions, now in print, which the next day he sent to the Parliament, and I hope will be accepted.

“J. O.”

These passages were written by Sir John Oglander on Tuesday. On the following Thursday, Charles, still enjoying a faint shadow of personal liberty, paid his loyal subject a visit at Nunwell, and honoured him by the acceptance of a purse of gold presented on bended knee.

I am not aware that the Oglander collections furnish any further details of Charles I.'s captivity in the Isle of Wight, and Sir John's relations to him. His loyalty cost him dear, both in purse and person. He was summoned up to London, where he was imprisoned for many years, and was finally obliged to pay a large sum to obtain his discharge. His eldest son George—“y<sup>e</sup> hopefullest,” writes the heart-broken father, “y<sup>t</sup> euer came owt of owr ffamily”—pre-deceased him, dying at “Cawne” (Caen), in the twenty-second year of his age, 1622. Sir John himself died in 1655, and was buried in his ancestral chapel at Brading. He, like his father, Sir William, is commemorated by a wooden effigy. This exhibits a singular example of a figure in complete armour, leaning on its left arm, the hand supporting the head, which is covered with a helmet. A smaller effigy, after precisely the same model, of his son George, reposes in a niche above that of his father. The whole series of effigies were once resplendent with colour and heraldic tinctures, but some rival of Malone has imitated the evil work done by him at Stratford-on-Avon, and they now do penance under a monotonous coat of stone-coloured paint.

The Norman line of the family is represented by Armand-Gustave-Camille, Count D'Oglandes (born in 1797), and is seated at the Chateau de Lonné, near Belleme, Department of the Orne. The present Count has a son and grandson born to him. His father obtained a high public reputation during the stormy periods of the French Revolution, Empire, and Restoration. He was a staunch Royalist, and showed his devotion to the King's cause even to joining in a plot to rescue Louis XVI. on his way to the scaffold.