

## SIR WILLIAM DUGDALE, GARTER.

It seems fitting that some note should be taken, in the *Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute*, of an event so interesting to archaeologists as the tercentenary of the birth of Sir William Dugdale.

His grandfather was James Dugdale of Clitheroe in Lancashire, whose only child, John, was of Shustoke near Coleshill in the county of Warwick. He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Arthur Swinfen of Dunchurch, descended from the Swinfens of Swinfen in the county of Stafford. Their only son William was born 12th September, 1605, at which time (Anthony Wood says) was a swarm of bees in his father's garden. This Lilly the "figure finger" afterwards interpreted as foretelling that the infant should in time prove a prodigy of industry, but this statement of Lilly was, however, a prophecy after the event.

From seven to ten years of age William had his first education in grammar learning under Mr. Thomas Sibley, curate at Nether Whitacre; from ten to fifteen he was at the Free Grammar School of Coventry, under Mr. James Crauford. He then returned home and read law with his father. His natural inclination tended chiefly to the study of antiquities, and he made collections relating to the antiquities of his native county, which he submitted to Sir Henry Spelman, who recommended him to Thomas, Earl of Arundel, Earl Marshal, for admission to the College of Arms. Accordingly, he was made Blaunch Lyon Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary on the 24th September, 1638. He was steadily promoted in the ranks of that College, becoming Rouge Croix Pursuivant in Ordinary on 18th March, 1639, Chester Herald 16th April, 1644, Norroy King of Arms 18th June, 1660, and finally Garter Principal King of Arms on 26th April, 1677. This may be taken as evidence that his knowledge of heraldry was unrivalled among his contemporaries; and although that study has been said

to be one which only loads the memory without improving the understanding, it was an essential equipment for his work. He received the honour of knighthood, "much against his will, by reason of his small estate," on the 25th of May following, and was decorated by the king with the chain and badge of the Order of the Garter, appropriate to the office of Garter King of Arms.

His own family arms were: argent a cross moline, and in the first quarter a torteau gules; crest, a griffin's head and wings addorsed or. The motto "pestis patriae pigrities" is a particularly appropriate one for so industrious a worker.

In 1626, he had fixed his country home at Blythe Hall, in the parish of Shustoke, but his appointment as Rouge Croix gave him a lodging in the Heralds' Office, and he thenceforth spent the greatest part of his time in London, where he augmented his collections out of the records in the Tower and elsewhere. In 1641, he devoted himself to making exact draughts of the monuments in cathedral and other churches, copying the epitaphs according to the very letter, as also all arms in the windows or cut in stone. In June, 1642, Rouge Croix was commanded to attend King Charles I, and continued in attendance upon His Majesty, and performing the functions of his office until the delivery of Oxford to the Parliamentary Army in June, 1646, when he had for sometime been Chester Herald. On 1st November, 1642, he was admitted Master of Arts at Oxford. During his leisure there he searched the antiquities in the Bodleian and other libraries, and made collections for the several great works which he had in contemplation.

In 1635 or thereabouts, he had formed the acquaintance of Mr. Roger Dodsworth, a Yorkshire antiquary, who had made large collections of the transcripts of the foundation charters of monasteries, and they agreed to work together for the same purpose. The result of their joint labours was the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, but as Mr. Dodsworth died in August, 1654, the responsibility of seeing it through the press rested on Dugdale alone. The first volume was finished in 1655. This great under-

taking, however, did not exhaust his capacity for work, for he also finished and published in 1656 his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*. He studied a collection of manuscripts relating to St. Paul's Cathedral, made by Mr. Reading and amounting to ten porters' burdens, resulting in the *History of St. Paul's*, published in 1658. The second volume of the *Monasticon* was published in 1661. *The History of Embanking and Draining of Rivers, Fens, and Marshes both in foreign parts and in this Kingdom* appeared in 1662. The *Origines Juridiciales*, which is to this day a fountain of information as to the high judicial offices, the courts of justice, the serjeants, the Inns of Court and of Chancery, was published in 1666. Dugdale completed and edited Spelman's *Concilia* and *Glossary* in the same year. In 1673 he published a third volume of the *Monasticon*; in 1675 and 1676 the *Baronage of England* in two volumes. In 1681 he published a *History of the Rebellion*; in 1682 a brief discourse on the ancient use of bearing of arms, and a second edition of the *Monasticon* appeared; in 1685 a collection of the summonses of the nobility to Parliament. He also made many MS. collections, some of which he presented to Heralds' College, and indexed and calendered a great number of other collections of documents. Besides these employments, he composed epitaphs on many illustrious persons.

This record of a busy life constitutes a monument of industry and research which may well be characterised as marvellous. It is not necessary here to attempt any appreciation of these great works. They have been too long in daily use by antiquaries to call for further description. Errors have been found in them—it would have been wonderful had it been otherwise—but their solid value is not affected by that discovery. In the apt words of the anonymous writer of the introduction to *Archaeologia*, we owe especially to the labours of Dugdale, in whom extensive knowledge was united with indefatigable application, the preservation of that treasure of records contained in our monastic repositories, the enlargement of our topographical acquaintance with our own country, the memorials of our nobility, and the history of some of our ancient cathedrals. He was

happy in the time at which he laboured, and was able to preserve evidences of many things that were destroyed during the civil wars.

This industrious life was prolonged until 10th February, 1685, and was then terminated by a bad cold, caught at Blythe Hall. He had married in 1622 Margery, second daughter of John Huntbach (or Hunbach), of Seawell, Staffordshire, and she died in 1681, after fifty-nine years of married life, leaving him three sons and ten daughters. The eldest son became Sir John Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, and died in 1699. The second daughter, Elizabeth, married Elias Ashmole, Windsor herald. An augmentation of arms was granted to Sir John by St. George, Garter, in 1698. Sir William, his wife, and his son Sir John, are all buried in Shustoke Church. The portrait by Borsseler, engraved as a frontispiece to Hamper's life (our principal authority for the facts here stated) shows a grave and reverend countenance, a long nose, bushy eyebrows, and abundant curling hair.

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