

ART. II.—*Westmorland: its Tenures, General History, and Post-mortem Inquests, exemplified in the Collection of Rawlinson, among the MSS. of the Bodleian Library.*

*Communicated at Windermere, by SIR GEORGE DUCKETT, BART., F.S.A., June 5th, 1878.*

THESE MSS., with those of Dodsworth, are among the most valuable records now extant of the old feudal state of this county. We had an opportunity of consulting them a few years ago, and the following summary of their contents will be both interesting, and probably of service to any one having in view a new and fuller history of Westmorland than at present exists.

The volume of the Rawlinson MSS., numbered (436) in the Bodleian Collection, is the original "Description of Westmorland, compiled A.D. 1671," by Sir Daniel Fleming, of Rydal, and apparently in his own hand. It was from this volume of Fleming's that Burn, (the historian of the county)\* gleaned so much of his information, and we strongly recommend, or beg to suggest, that it should be transcribed and printed either as a whole or in succeeding parts of this Journal.

Vol. (437), records the Tenures in the county of Westmorland from 35 Edw. I. to 18 Ch. I., but chiefly in the reigns of Hen. VIII., Edw. VI., and Elizabeth. The following articles are interspersed throughout the volume :

1. "A note of those which hath any parte of the tithes of the rectorie of Barton and Cokham within Westmorland." (fol. 1.)
2. "Commissioners for the aydes to the Kyng to make Prince Henrie Knight, 1609, in com' Westm. (fol. 2b.)"
3. "Orders and inquisitions relating to the courts of wards and liveries, temp. Jas. I and Car. 1 (ff 3b, 4b, 5b,—40b, 64b—6.)"
4. "Paternal estates of which livery was claimed by Geo., Earl of Cumberland in 1579, with their annual value" (fo. 4.)

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\* History of Westmorland and Cumberland, Vol. 1, p. ii.

5. "Fine of lands, with the advowson of St. Leonard's Hospital, &c. at Kendal, levied by Margaret de Ros to her Son William (A.D., 1301)" (fol. 60b.)

6. Various deeds chiefly relating to lands at Kendal. (ff.—83, 85; 111b.—14, 117b, 197-9.)

7. A Catalogue of . . . .

8. "Rents reserved of lands holden in capite 'per servicium mil.'" fo. 179b.)

9. "The several manors belonging to the Richmond fee, being the full moiety of the Baronies of Kendal, and the rents now paid." (fo. 251.)

10. "The several manors belonging to the Marquesse fee." (fo. 252.)

Vol. (438) contains the different Inquisitions post-mortem held in the county of Westmorland from the time of Hen. III., to Edw. IV., concluding with :—

1. Writs directed (temp. Edw. I.) to the King's Escheator north of Trent.

3. Charters from the time of Edw. III. to Edw. IV., granting lands to different parties. (ff. 122-125.)

A note makes known the fact that the "*Ledger Book*" of Furness Abbey, in the county of Lancaster, was (in Rawlinson's day) in the custody of Sir John Brograve, Knight, attorney-general of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Vols. (449 and 450) comprise Collections relating to the county of York, viz :—

Charters pertaining to the House of Aldeburgh, from the chartulary of Furness Abbey (f. 20-25b).

Names of gentlemen in Yorkshire "for keeping of horsse and armor according to the Statute, to whom letters were dyrectyd, anno 1573." (f. 327b.)

Names of the Commissioners in Northumberland, Westmorland, Cumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire, (date omitted.) (ff. 325-7, 328-9).

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On the suggestion of the President of the Council, (The Rev. Canon Simpson, LL.D.) the very valuable suggestion of Sir George Duckett contained in the above paper was referred for consideration to the following Committee, Dr. Simpson, Mr. Jackson, F.S.A., the Rev. Thomas Lees, M.A., and the Editor of the Society's Transactions.