

Bowden of Bowden.

By HENRY KIRKE, M.A., B.C.L.



WHILST turning over the leaves of Add. MS. 24,460, in the library of the British Museum, I came across the following note upon one of the Bowdens, of Bowden Hall, near Chapel-en-le-Frith:—

“Thomas Bowden, son of Nicholas Bowden, of Bowden, by his first wife, is said to have died April 15th, 1681, attributed (*sic*) to the effect of excessive drinking in which he was engaged. Mr. Milward, a Derby gentleman, and Mr. Rawlinson getting their deaths on the same occasion.

“George Bowden, uncle of Thomas, was author of a volume of poems printed about 1680: he married Ellen, daughter of Augustine Poole, of Langley. Thomas Bowden married Elizabeth, who died 1706.”

This statement does not agree with the accepted pedigrees. Thomas Bowden, who was born in 1654, was a son of Nicholas Bowden by his second wife, daughter of Thomas Barnby, of Barnby, co. York. He was married on the 5th February, 1694, to Elizabeth, daughter of William Bosville, of Gunthwaite, co. York, Colonel in the Parliamentary Army, so he could not have died in 1681.

I have not been able to find any volume of poems written by George Bowden. It was George Bowden's great grandfather, of the same name, who married Ellen, daughter of Augustine Poole, of Langley. I know not whom George Bowden married, if he married at all. It is probable that he died unmarried, as he was entered as eldest son and heir of Thomas Bowden, of Bowden, in St. George's Visitation of 1611, whereas Nicholas, the second son, succeeded to the family estate.