

William Bird of Nether Locko.

A CORRECTION.

By REV. R. H. C. FITZHERBERT, M.A.

IN the account of the trial of George Busby in the last volume¹ of this *Journal* occurs the following :—

“The Gilberts, originally of Barrow, had removed to Trusley, William Gilbert having married his father’s widow, who was the daughter of William Coke, Esq. So says Lysons.”

But Lysons says nothing of the sort. His words are² :—

“William Bird, Esq., sold this manor” (*i.e.*, Nether-Locko) “to William Gilbert, Esq., then of Barrow, who had married his father’s widow, the daughter of William Coke, Esq., of Trusley. The Gilbert family in consequence removed hither, and resided at Locko Park for several generations.”

Mr. Kirke has strangely misread this passage, and thus made several grave errors. He may well describe this supposed marriage of William Gilbert with his own father’s widow as “a strange alliance.” Had it taken place it would have been an act of incest, illegal, and useless for the purpose of “keeping the property in the family.”

But William Gilbert was guilty of no such enormity. He married the widow of William Bird, of Locko, and William Bird’s son sold Locko to William Gilbert.

By his marriage with Elizabeth, the widow of John Bird and daughter of William Coke, of Trusley, William Gilbert acquired no interest in Trusley, which estate descended from the said William Coke to his son and son’s son.

Nor did Gilbert remove from Barrow to Trusley, as Mr. Kirke asserts, but to *Locko*, which he bought from his stepson, William Bird. The Gilberts had nothing to do with Trusley.

¹ Vol. xxx., p. 225.

² p. 259.