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Arch. Whitgifts. Perogative Seal.

XII.

WHITGIFT GATHERINGS.

BY CHARLES SPENCER PERCEVAL, LL.D., F.S.A.

EVER since Cranmer, in 1537, "finding," as Strype says, "that the spreading demerits of the Church were in danger to be torn off by the talons of avarice and rapine, to mortify the growing appetites of sacrilegious cormorants,"¹ parted with his magnificent Kentish palaces of Otford and Knoll, in favour of the Crown, our county of Surrey has been almost exclusively honoured by the residence within its limits, at Croydon and Lambeth, and latterly at Addington, of the successive occupants of the Archiepiscopal See of Canterbury. Among these prelates no one is more deserving of remembrance by Surrey men than the pious founder of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, at Croydon, the muniment-room of which institution possesses the interesting deed which forms the subject of Mr. Flower's paper at page 99 of this volume; and no apology can be needed for the introduction into our collections of the engravings which the present remarks accompany.

The upper figure, in the large plate (for which the Society is indebted to the liberality of the Rev. George H. Dashwood), gives an accurate representation of the Seal of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, of the time of Archbishop Whitgift. The counter-seal is represented in the lower figure of the same plate.

¹ Memorials of Cranmer, ii. 283.

The example from which our engraving is taken, is from an exemplification of administration out of the Prerogative Court, dated December 31, 1590, and certifying that on Oct. 19, 1575, the administration of the goods of Rowland Hare, late of Stork, in the county of Essex, gent., deceased, was committed by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, guardians of the spiritualties of the Province (*sede vacante*), to Nicholas Hare, of the Inner Temple, London. Rowland and Nicholas were sons of John Hare, of Stow Bardolph, Esq. Nicholas, the elder son, in 1589, according to Burke (*Extinct Baronetage, sub nom.*), rebuilt the mansion at Stow Bardolph, from the muniment-room at which place the instrument in question has, through the great kindness of Mr. Dashwood, been placed at the disposal of our Society for the purpose of engraving the seal.

The upper compartment of the seal appears to represent the Disputation in the Temple, while an escutcheon at the base bears the arms of the See of Canterbury, impaling —, on a cross humetté flory —, four roundlets, for Whitgift. The legend is [SIGILLUM] CURIÆ PREROGATIVÆ JOHANNIS WHITEGIFTE, DEI GRATIA CANT [UARIENSIS, ARCHIEPISCOPI]. The words in brackets are broken off with the top of the seal, but are easily restored as above.

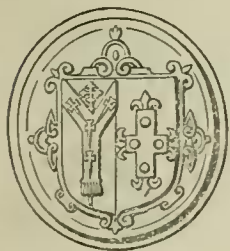
This seal is, with the exception, of course, of the impaled coat, and of the legend, an exact repetition of the Prerogative Seal of Whitgift's predecessor, Matthew Parker,² who first introduced this type, which has continued to our own day, with the sole difference that the seal of the late Prerogative Court, *tempore* Sumner, was round, and not oval. Even such details as the two small

² Figured in Gorham's Reformation Gleanings.

columns on either side of the shield were closely followed in the last seal of the lately abolished Court.

The counter-seal appears to represent a mark or personal device of a tree eradicated. I have not been able to learn whether the practice of counter-sealing was usual in the case of Prerogative Seals, or, if so, whose seal was employed for the purpose; and can give no satisfactory explanation of the device.

It is to the ready courtesy of our Vice-President, James More Molyneux, Esq., whose hospitable reception of the members of the Surrey Archæological Society, in the summer of 1861, will long be remembered, that we owe the annexed woodcut of the archbishop's signet, and the facsimile of his signature, placed as a tail-piece to this paper. Both are from a letter of this prelate, dated from Croydon, October 2, 1593, and addressed thus, "To my verie loving frend Sir Willm. More, knight,



give these." The letter, which is preserved among the Losely MSS., is, with the exception of the signature, in the hand of a secretary, and in itself is of no peculiar interest, relating merely to some preliminary proceedings of a commission then lately issued for the visitation of colleges, hospitals, &c., of which commission the Archbishop and Sir William were members.

The personal arms of the Archbishop appear the same on both seals: the cross being charged, in each instance, with *four* roundlets (bezants); while on his tomb at Croydon, on the frontispiece to Paule's Life of Whitgift, and elsewhere, the cross is charged with *five* bezants. The fact is, that the Archbishop had more than one grant of arms, the bearings differing slightly in each grant. The following notes on this subject, for the substance of

which I have to express my thanks to Thomas W. King, Esq., York Herald, may be found interesting.

On the 2nd May, 1577, 19° Eliz. Sir Gilbert Dethick, Garter, granted to John Whitgift, D.D., Bishop of Worcester, this coat; *Or, on a cross fleuretée azure, four bezants.*

In June, 1588, 30° Eliz. it appears, but from a draft only, that Robert Cooke, Clarencieux, granted to John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, a crest "*out of a crown of gold, a Lyon's paw, silver, holding a laurel garland vert.*" In this grant of a crest the prelate's arms are thus described: "*Quarterly silver and gold, in the first, on a cross flory, sable, four bezants; and in the second, on a cross flory, azure, four bezants, and so quarterly;*" and are recognized in a docquet-book in Cooke's handwriting.

A second draft exists, whereby, in July, 1588, 30 Eliz., Sir William Dethick, Garter, granted to the Archbishop; "*Argent, a cross humetté, flory de liz, sable, with four bezants;*" and for crest, "*the leg or paw of a Lyon, gules, set in a crown, gold, holding a garland or chaplet of laurel or bays, proper.*" The crest, however, appears limited to the Archbishop's brothers.

Now, although this instrument is a mere draft, and there is no primary evidence to prove that a grant in fact issued in conformity with it, yet in the Visitation of Essex, in 1634, the pedigree of the Archbishop is entered with the plain coat, "*Argent, on a cross fleuretée, sable, four bezants;*" and the crest, "*out of a ducal coronet, a lion's paw erect, argent, holding a wreath of laurel, vert,*" the coat being the first and fourth quarter of the grant by Cooke in June, 1588. The whole appears to agree with Dethick's draft of July, 1588, excepting that there the lion's paw is *gules*,

and not *argent*, as is the case in the Visitation, and also in Cooke's grant of June, 1588. In a note to this pedigree of 1634, it is stated that the arms were "exemplified by Lres. Pattents to John Whitgift, the Archbishop, William, George, and Richard, his brothers, and to their descendants for ever, by Sir Wm. Dethick, als. Garter, Principall King of Arms, dated the 4th July, 1588."

Upon this evidence, Mr. King, on the whole, concludes that the Arms of the Archbishop were really those as entered in the Visitation of Essex, in 1634, with the crest as appertaining to his brothers. This view is corroborated by the evidence of our two seals.

Another draft grant remains in the College of Arms. This is in Latin, dated 22nd January, 1598, 40 Eliz., and by it Sir William Dethick, Garter, and William Camden, Clarencieux, grant to the Archbishop, *Argent, five bezants on a cross formée flory, sable*, and the crest *a lion's foot or, eraced sanguine, armed gules*.

It seems singular that so soon after Cooke's grant, in June, 1588, another should occur by Sir W. Dethick in July of the same year. To explain this, Mr. King mentions that about this time there were great dissensions between the King of Arms as to their several powers and jurisdictions, which may account for the two grants—one within, or nearly within, a month of the other. In illustration of this remark, I may notice, on the authority of the Athenæ Cantabrigienses, that Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York, on May 1, 1584, had a grant from William Flower, Norroy, of these arms, "*Gules, on a fess between three cushions, lozenge-ways, argent, fringed and tasselled or, as many fleurs de liz of the field;*" with this crest, "*on a cushion, placed lozenge-ways, gules, an open book edged or, and inscribed*

Odor Vitæ;" and in the same year, on the 20th July, Sir G. Dethick, Garter, granted a similar coat and crest, except that the charge on the fess was a cross humetté between two fleurs de liz.

It is not our purpose to enter into any detail of particulars of Whitgift's life. An excellent memoir of this prelate, embodying briefly the information collected by Strype and many others, has recently appeared in the second volume of Messrs. Cooper's *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*. The following short notes, however, showing the various steps in the Archbishop's long and successful career, may be useful.

He was born at Great Grimsby, in 1530 or 1533; proceeded B.A. from Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, in 1553-4; Fellow of Peterhouse, 1555; M.A., 1557; B.D., 1563, when he became Margaret Professor of Divinity. In 1567, he was elected Master of Pembroke Hall, and proceeded D.D. In the same year he became Master of Trinity College, and Regius Professor of Divinity, and in 1570, Vice Chancellor of the University. His election to the Deanery of Lincoln followed in 1571, and in 1577 he was consecrated Bishop of Worcester, whereupon he resigned the Mastership of Trinity College, which he had held for ten years. In 1583, he was translated to the Metropolitan See of Canterbury, and held the primacy for more than twenty years, dying at Lambeth, Feb. 29, 1603-4. He lies buried in Croydon Church, under a handsome monument, still existing at the S. E. corner of St. Nicholas' chantry. This spot was probably selected on account of its being at that time the customary seat of the brethren of the Archbishop's hospital during public worship. The tomb is adorned with the armorial bearings of Peterhouse, Pembroke Hall, and Trinity Colleges, the Deanery of Lincoln, and

the Sees of Worcester and Canterbury, besides his own coat, of the last grant; the cross, however, according to Mr. Steinman's History of Croydon, page 175, is now coloured red instead of black.

The inscriptions on the monument are printed by Mr. Steinman, and in Lyson's Environs of London, i. 181.

The accompanying pedigree has been compiled from copies of the Visitations of Surrey and Essex, in the British Museum. As an appropriate conclusion to these notes we insert the autograph of the Archbishop.

Your approved friend
J. O. Cantuar.

Pedigree of Whitgift.

[Taken from *Visitations of Surrey*, 1623 (*MSS. Harl. 1397*, fo. 133 b), and of *Essex*, 1634, *Harl. 1542*.]

