

XV.

MEMORANDUM ON THE NOTICES OF THE FAMILY
OF COBHAM OF STERBOROUGH.

SINCE the publication of the second part of our present volume, the fifteenth volume of the Sussex Archæological Collections has appeared, containing an interesting Paper by W. Durrant Cooper, Esq., F.S.A., entitled "Sussex Men at Agincourt." At page 124 the following passage occurs:—"The retinue of the Earl of Arundel was, indeed, partly composed of men from Surrey and from his Welsh estates. His banneret was Sir REGINALD COBEHAM, of Steresborough, Surrey, who, in his letters of safe-conduct, dated 5th June (Rot. Franc. 3 Hen. V. m. 20), is called brother and heir of John, son of Reginald de Cobham, who also held the manor of Northeye, in Sussex. Sir Reginald was certainly at the battle, and he so appears in the Earl of Arundel's roll, although, in the carefully-written notices of the family, in the Collections of the Surrey Archæological Society, it is stated that he is not mentioned in the Roll of Agincourt, as having taken part in that great battle."—Mr. Cooper refers to page 144 of our volume, and correctly remarks that the name of Sir Reginald's deceased brother, John, is not given there. Neither is he mentioned in the pedigree of the family which follows page 168.

It is with pleasure that we notice these corrections. Mr. Durrant Cooper has abundantly proved that Sir Reginald Cobham was engaged in the Agincourt expedition. The contrary statement arose from the fact that Sir Reginald's name does not occur in Sir N. H. Nicolas's Agincourt Roll: an omission now explained by the circumstance that he had no independent command. In the writ of protection referred to by Mr. Durrant Cooper (Rot. Franc. *ub. supra*), Sir Reginald is thus described:—"Reginaldus Cobham de Sterresburgh in Comitatu Surriæ miles, alias dictus Reginaldus de Cobham miles frater et heres Johannis filii Reginaldi de Cobham de Sterresburgh militis senioris, alias dictus Reginaldus frater Johannis filii Reginaldi de Cobham de Sterresburgh militis senioris." It may be conjectured that Sir Reginald sued out the king's writ, with this careful description of himself, under some appre-

hension of legal proceedings being taken against him while absent from England, in consequence of a liability he had incurred as heir of his brother. At present we find nothing more of this John. He certainly died before his father Sir Reginald senior, as Sir Reginald of Agincourt is returned as heir in the inquisition held on the father's death,* which fact confirms the statement of his heirship in our pedigree.

The following *errata et corrigenda* in the "Notices of the Family of Cobham" may suitably be introduced here : —

P. 171, line 8 : *for* dosso *read* dorsorio.

Ib., last line but 4 : "cum *Mortumalo* et *Geuenytes* in principio libri." A very probable explanation of these two odd-looking words, which occur in Joan Lady Cobham's will, and which we were compelled to leave without interpretation, has been suggested by G. R. French, Esq. He proposes to read thus : "cum [armis de] Mortymers et Genevyles in principio," &c. (with Mortimers' and Geneviles' arms at the beginning of the book, together with a picture of the Salutation).

Joan de Cobham, the testatrix, was daughter of Thomas Lord Berkeley, by Margaret, daughter of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and his wife Joan, daughter and co-heir of Peter de Genevile, Lord of Trim in Ireland. The Earl by this marriage acquired the right to impale, and his children to quarter, the arms of Genevile with that of Mortimer ; and it seems likely enough that the handsome illuminated volume bequeathed by Lady Cobham had been executed for her maternal grandfather, or for one of his family, and that, after the fashion of the period, these two coats (either impaled or quarterly) had been introduced as an accessory to the miniature on the first page.

The only serious difficulty in this interpretation, namely, the necessity of inserting the words "armis de," becomes very slight, on an inspection of the context. It will be seen that the expression "cum armis de" occurs only three lines before the passage in question, in a bequest of a cup with the arms of Cobham and Berkeley ; and a blunder in transcribing the original will from a draft might easily happen, particularly if, in the draft, the two groups of identical words chanced to stand one immediately over the other. Supposing the words "armis de" once dropped in this way in the original will, the sense would be lost, and the clerk who engrossed the registered copy from which we print might, it is suggested, turn Mortymers into Mortumals or Mortumalo,

* In q. p. m. Reginaldi [in the Calendar misprinted *Rogeri*] Cobham ; 4 H. 4. num. 34.—He was then aged 21 years and upwards.

for, indeed, the final letter of the word in Wittlesey's Register may be read either way, though the other letters are quite plain. Geuenyles may equally well be read Geneuyles, there being in fact no distinction in the MS. between the u and the n.

Ib., last line but one : "Manuel Peche." The book intended is clearly the "Manuel des Péchés," of Robert Grossteste, Bishop of Lincoln. See pp. xii and xxxiii of Mr. Luard's Introduction to Grossteste's Epistles, lately published by direction of the Master of the Rolls.

P. 145, line 1 ; 187, l. 14 ; and 189, l. 24 : "Un colet d'or ov un baleys en le Toret." The meaning of the word *toret* being doubtful, it was translated "pendant," with a note of interrogation. More probably it means *Turret*. "A gold necklace with a ruby, in the Turret." A little lower down in the will is a bequest of "perlez enflez en mon noire forser" (a string of pearls in my black jewel-case), and by analogy the words "en le Toret" may well indicate the place where the subject of this legacy was to be found. As to the word itself, it may be sufficient to note the spelling of Langley *Burrell* in the same will : "Langele *Borel*." A turret in the Middle Ages was an ordinary place of security for valuables, muniments of title, &c.

P. 184-5. By the expression "ma commère" in Reginald Cobham's will, it seems more likely that the testator intended to describe the Queen Philippa as *his own* godmother than as his gossip. In this sense the word is used by Jean de Troyes, in his Chronicles of Louis XI., in the following passage, which is in itself interesting from its connection with English history : "Au dit tems et le Samedi dernier jour de Juinz, 1470, environ entre deux et trois heures du matin, la royne accoucha au château de Amboise de ung beau filz qu'illec fut baptisé, et nommé Charles par Monseigneur l'Archevêque de Lyon, avecques le Prince de Galles, filz de Henry, jadis Roy d'Angleterre, et prisonnier détenu par Edouart, qui se disoit roy du dit pays d'Angleterre, et la *commère* fut Madame Jehanne de France, Duchesse de Bourbon."

In the Pedigree, near the bottom, *for* ob. vivo *fratre*, 20 Hen. 6 : *read* ob. vivo *patre*, 20 Hen. 6.

C. S. P.

J. W. F.