

BOWYER OF CAMBERWELL.

By JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, Esq., F.S.A.

THE Bowyers of Camberwell were either of a distinct family from those of Charlwood, whose genealogy occurs among the pedigrees from the Visitation of 1623, accompanying the present Part of our Collections—or they were but distantly related. Their arms were the same in design, but the cotises were tinctured gules instead of sable. Their pedigree is given in the “History of Surrey” by Manning and Bray, vol. iii. p. 409, and the entries of their name in the parish register of Camberwell have been published in the “Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica,” vol. iii. pp. 151—153.

Their descent was derived from John Bowyer of Chichester, whose posterity for five generations were of Shepton Beauchamp, in Somersetshire. In the last of those generations, John Bowyer married Joan, daughter and heiress of William Brabant, of Bruton, co. Somerset, by Alice, daughter and heiress of Richard Boys, cousin and heir to John Boys. Both the coats of Brabant and Boys were subsequently quartered by this family of Bowyer.

John Bowyer, Esq., afterwards of Lincoln’s Inn and Camberwell, was born at Shepton Beauchamp. He married first, in 1540, Anne Jenes, by whom he had some children, who died infants; and secondly, in 1550, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Robert Draper, Esq., of Camberwell.¹ The expenses of the wedding clothes

¹ Elizabeth Draper was the sister of Henry Draper, gentleman, buried at Camberwell in 1558; probably, also, of William Draper, gentleman, buried there in 1559; and certainly (according to the Visitation

for this marriage are printed in Lysons' "Environs." Mr. Bowyer was buried at Camberwell, Oct. 16, 1570; his widow was married to William Foster, Esq., and, dying the wife of that gentleman in 1605, was also buried at Camberwell.

Robert Draper, Esq., the father of Mrs. Bowyer, was uncle to Sir Christopher Draper, (son of John Draper, of Melton Mowbray,) Lord Mayor of London in 1560, whose three daughters, Bennet, Agnes, and Bridget, were married to Sir William Webbe, Sir Wolstan Dixie, and Sir Henry Billingsley, who all also arrived at the civic chair. Robert Draper had been page of the Jewel Office in the reign of Henry VIII., and he obtained a grant of the manor of Camberwell Fryern, which had belonged to the priory of Haliwell. His family were previously of Flintham, in Nottinghamshire; where it is traced for three generations up to his great-grandfather John,¹ whose son Thomas married the daughter and

pedigree) of Mathye Draper, Esq., as he is styled in his epitaph. This Mathye or Mathew Draper was married to Sence Blackwell, daughter of William Blackwell, Esq., town clerk of London; and it is remarkable that we find them going through the wedding ceremony twice. This evidently arose from the religious changes in the first year of the reign of Elizabeth. Machyn describes the earlier ceremony: it took place on the 30th May, 1559, in the parish of St. Andrew in the Wardrobe, where they were married in Latin and with mass: "and after mass they had a bride-cup, and cakes, and hypocras, and muscadell, plenty to everybody." The company then went unto Master Blackwell's place to breakfast, and after that there was a great dinner. A fortnight later, the marriage of Matthew Draper and Sence Blackwell is entered in the register of Camberwell, where we may presume it was re-solemnized, more quietly, with Protestant rites. The lady was buried there in 1571, and Mr. Draper in 1577. Their figures in brass remained in Camberwell church until they improperly passed into private hands at a modern repair. (See Manning and Bray, iii. 426; Allport's *Hist. of Camberwell*, p. 134.) Nicholas Charles, in the Lansdowne MS. 874, describes the funeral surcoat of Matthew Draper: it was quarterly of six: 1 and 6, Draper; 2 and 5, the second coat of Draper; 3, Auger; 4, Urswicke (all as blazoned hereafter).

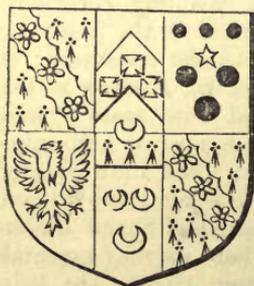
¹ They had been there still longer, according to the county historian, who states that the manor of Flintham came in the reign of Elizabeth to the wife of John Draper, "whose ancestors had been here resident since the beginning of Edward III."—Thoroton's *History of Nottinghamshire*, p. 133.

heiress of Auger, by the daughter and heiress of Urswicke. Hence those two quarterings were derived to the Drapers, and subsequently to the Bowyers. The arms of Sir Christopher Draper, the Lord Mayor,



quartered Auger and Urswicke, as here shown.¹ Robert Draper married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Fyfield, alias Lowe, of Camberwell, which marriage brought in the two additional quarterings of Fyfield and Kirktoft. A brief pedigree of the family of Fyfield alias Lowe is extant,² showing that John, above

mentioned, was the son of Richard, and grandson of a former John Fyfield alias Lowe. Richard had another son, named Ralph Fyfield alias Lowe, of London, who appears to have been grandfather of Sir Thomas Lowe, alderman of London: he was the son of Simon Lowe, citizen and Merchant-Taylor, son of Ralph Lowe, of London. Sir Thomas was one of the Haberdashers, Sheriff in 1595, knighted (with eighteen other aldermen) soon after the accession of James I., July 26, 1603; became Lord



argent,

ermine

on a wreath, a falcon with wings expanded gules, charged

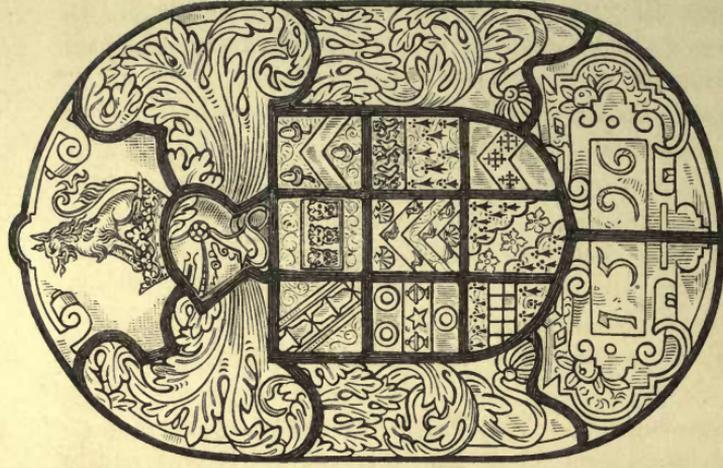
Mayor in 1604-5; M.P. for London in 1614 and 1621, and Governor of the company of Turkey Merchants. He bore quarterly of six—1 and 6, Ermine, on a bend engrailed azure three cinquefoils or, *Lowe*; 2. Argent, on a chevron gules three crosses patée or, *Kirktoft*; 3. Sable, six ogresses, 3, 2, 1, a mullet gules, ; 4. Gules, a spread eagle

; 5. Gules, three crescents or, a chief

; over all, a crescent for difference. Crest,

¹ See a memoir of Sir Christopher Draper in the "History of the Ironmongers Company," by John Nicholl, Esq., F.S.A.; and his monument at St. Dunstan's in the East, described by Stowe and by the other historians of London. In the Visitation of London, 1568, the pedigree is accompanied by the four quarterings, as above.

² In the London Visitation of 1568.



Quarterings and Crest of Boyer.



Boyer impaling Brabant & Boys.

STAINED GLASS FORMERLY AT NORTON FOLGATE.

on the breast with a crescent or.—(*Arms of Lord Mayors and Sheriffs*, by William Smith, Rouge Dragon, and dedicated to Sir Thomas Lowe, Lord Mayor, 1605.¹) It has not, however, been ascertained when the marriage of Fyfield, alias Lowe, with Kirktoft took place.

John Bowyer, Esq., and Elizabeth Draper had issue (with other children) Edmond, who was born at Camberwell, May 12, 1552. He was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1601, and M.P. for the county of Surrey in 1603, having received the honour of knighthood on the 11th of May in the latter year, at the Charterhouse, upon the first arrival of King James I. in London. Sir Edmond Bowyer was buried at Camberwell in 1626-7.

It must have been for Sir Edmond Bowyer, or one of his immediate relations, that the stained glass was made which we are now about to describe, bearing the dates 1596 and 1599. It does not, however, exhibit the marriage of Sir Edmond with Katharine Byne, one of the family seated at Rowdell,² in Washington, co. Sussex, which had taken place at Camberwell in 1573. There may originally have been pieces that did so.

This glass decorated a mansion at Norton Folgate, in the parish of Shoreditch, which had also been parcel of the possessions of the Priory of Haliwell, and granted to Robert Draper, Page of the Jewels, by patent dated July 21st, 36 Henry VIII. It was described by the present Sir Henry Ellis, in his "*History of Shoreditch*," 4to. 1798, in the following passage:—

"In the back part of a house known by the name of the Rose and Crown, No. 26, Holywell-street, the bottom of Norton Folgate, was a large ancient bay-window, containing the arms here engraved, making

¹ The quarterings prefixed to the pedigree of Fyfield, alias Lowe, in the London Visitation of 1568,—are Quarterly, 1 and 4. Per fess vert and argent, a pale counterchanged, three acorns or; 2 and 3. Argent, six ogresses, 3, 2, 1, a mullet gules.

² See the pedigree of Byne in Manning and Bray, vol. ii. 513; also Cartwright's *Rape of Bramber*, p. 131.

in all ten coats, several being repeated, and two of them the royal arms; the rest were dated 1596 and 1599. The size and age of the window bespoke the house to have been a stately building. The frame was in many parts so decayed, that it was scarcely strong enough to support the glass. Such was the state of the house in 1776. It was purchased by the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq., a few years after; and the glass being carefully preserved, was by him, in consequence of an accidental enquiry after it, presented in the most handsome and unexpected manner to Mr. Gough, the windows of whose library at Enfield derive no small embellishment from these ten coats."

The remaining portions of this glass were, in 1836, at the residence of J. Bowyer Nichols, Esq., F.S.A., at Hammersmith (when they were described in the "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica," vol. iii. p. 154), and they have subsequently been preserved in the house of the same gentleman at Hanger Hill, Ealing, until after his death in 1863. They are now in the possession of his youngest son, Francis M. Nichols, Esq., F.S.A.

Besides a more ancient shield of the quarterings of Bulstrode (blazoned in the *Collectanea*, *ut supra*), they consist of the following pieces:—

I. Or, a bend vaire cotised gules, *Bowyer*; impaling, Quarterly of four, 1 and 4. Argent, on a fess humetté gu. three leopard's heads or, *Brabant*; 2 and 3. Argent, a chevron sable betw. three acorns proper, *Boys*; placed in a border of scroll-work and fruit, with the date 1599. (See the Engraving.)

II. Quarterly of nine, 1. *Bowyer*; 2. *Brabant*; 3. *Boys*; 4. Argent, on a fess betw. three annulets gu. a mullet of the field betw. two covered cups or, *Draper*; 5. Argent, two chevrons sable, each charged with three martlets or, betw. three escallops of the second, also for *Draper*; 6. Ermine, on a chief az. three lions rampant or, *Auger*; 7. Ermine, a fess checky arg. and az. *Urswycke*; 8. Ermine, on a bend engrailed az. three cinquefoils or, *Fifield* alias *Lowe*; 9. Argent, on a chevron gu. three crosslets or, *Kirktofte*. Crest, upon a helmet, on a coronet or, a tiger sejant argent. With mantling and the date-1596. (See the Engraving.)

III. A correspondent piece of nine quarterings, mended

with fragments of the same arms on a smaller scale. Dated 1599.

IV. Fifield alias Lowe, and Kirktofte quarterly; impaling quarterly of ten; 1. Sable, a stag's head caboshed argent, attired or, between the horns a cross patée fitchée of the third, through the nostrils an arrow, *Bulstrode*; 2. Argent, a chevron between three raven's heads erased sable, *Norris*; 3. Paly argent and azure, on a chief sable two knives in saltire argent, *Knyffs*; 4. Sable, three fusils in fess argent, *Thorn*; 5. Party per fess azure and gules, a horse-barnacle argent, *Wyatt*; 6. Argent, a chevron gules betw. three squirrels sable cracking nuts or, *Shobington*; 7. Argent, a bull's head gules winged sable, *crest of Bulstrode*; 8. Ermine, a horse-barnacle gules, *Spelling*; 9. Argent, five cinquefoils gules 2, 2, 1, on a canton sable a mullet and crescent or, *Palton* or *Freisell*; and 10. Argent, a dancette gu. between three leopard's heads sable [should be in chief], *Pultenay*. Within a border of scroll-work and fruit, with the date 1599.

[Mr. Gough had also—V. Bowyer quarterly of the three first coats in No. II. impaling Draper quarterly of the six last in the same, dated 1599.]

There is still another family of Bowyer, of very considerable importance. Their pedigree is recorded in the Visitation of Sussex, 1634 (MS. Coll. Arm. C. 27, f. 115), signed by Sir Thomas Bowyer, of Leythorne, in that county, Baronet, and it is printed in Dallaway's "History of the Rape of Chichester," 4to. 1815, p. 61. He was fifth in descent from Thomas Bowyer, of Staffordshire, where the Bowyers were of Knypersley, having married an heiress of that name. Thomas (according to the Visitation pedigree) was father of Richard and grandfather of William, both of Petworth, in Sussex; which William had issue Thomas Bowyer, of London, and Robert, of Chichester. The elder of these brothers was the grandfather of Sir Thomas Bowyer, of Leythorne, Baronet, above-named; and the younger was grandfather of Sir William Bowyer, the first Baronet of Denham, in Buckinghamshire. In this pedigree the Bowyer

arms¹ have sable cotises; yet in the collection of Arms of Lord Mayors and Sheriffs, by William Smith, Rouge Dragon, 1605, (a MS. in my possession,) the arms of Francis Bowyer, alderman and sheriff in 1578, who was the father of Sir William Bowyer, of Denham, are given with red cotises, quartering Knypersley,² and differenced by a crescent: apparently derived from the church of St. Nicholas Acon, where the Alderman was buried.



¹ They quarter: 2. Azure, a bend nebulé argent, cotised or, on a chief of the second a gryphon's head erased gules between two tor-teauxes, *Groves*; 3. Sable, three spades or, handles argent, *Knypersley*; 4. Gules, on a fess engrailed sable between three waterbougets ermine a cross flory between two cloves? or.

² In the volume of Sir Gilbert Dethick's Gifts (MS. Coll. Arm. 191, f. 162), is one dated April 9, 1576, to Ralph Bowyer, of co. Lincoln, Esq., "descended from the antient line of William Bowyer, of Knypersleye, co. Stafford;" viz., Quarterly, 1 and 4. Or, a bend vaire or and azure, cotised sable; 2. Azure, three spades or, handles argent; 3. Azure, two bars argent (no name). Crest, on a torse argent and azure, issuant out of a tower, a demi-dragon gold, armed and langued azure.

Notwithstanding the claim of descent for the Bowyers bearing the bend vaire from the Bowyers of Knypersley, it is remarkable that that family, who enjoyed a baronetage from 1660 to 1701, bore a wholly different coat of arms; viz., Argent, a lion rampant between three cross-crosslets fitchée gules.



DRAPER.