THOMAS, 2nd EARL OF ONSLOW, AND GUILDFORD ONSLOW, M.P.

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ONSLOW, P.C., O.B.E.

President of the Society.

THOMAS, elder son of George Onslow, 4th Baron and 1st Earl, was born on March 15th, 1754. His birth was anticipated in the betting book of White's Club, for on February 25th, 1753, a sweepstake was organized with twenty guineas entrance as to whom of several ladies should be the first to bear a child.

Lord Hobart	drew	Lady Coventry.
Mr. Jeffreys	,,	Mrs. Onslow.
Lord Mountfort	,,	Lady Hilsbury.
Lord R. Bertie	,,	Lady Duncannon.
Capt. Vane	,,	Mrs. Cholmondeley.
Mr. Maxwell	,,	Lady D. Egerton.

We next hear of him at Michelgrove, his grandfather's place, where he had the misfortune to break his thigh, and although he recovered from the accident it is possible that it contributed to the shortness of his stature in after life.

In due course he went to Harrow, where he was a contemporary of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and from there to Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1773 when nineteen years of age. He seems to have profited by his education, as Wraxall tells us that the "great compositions of antiquity were familiar to him," although from the same source we hear that he was "often classical, though not always decorous."

Shortly after leaving Cambridge his cousin Richard made

him a Deputy Lieutenant for the County, and on December 20th, 1776, he married Arabella, third daughter of Eaton Mainwaring Ellerker, Esq., of Risby Park in Yorkshire. Mr. Ellerker had only one son, and on his death Arabella and her sister became co-heiresses of his fortune, which was worth £5,000 a year. Arabella died in 1782 after having given birth to three sons and a daughter. Her portraits exist at Clandon on pastelle by Russell, the Guildford artist. She seems to have been a beautiful woman and to have died deeply regretted by all who knew her, especially by her father-in-law, who devotes a long passage in a letter left by him to his grandchildren describing her merits and virtues (*Clandon MSS.*).

Unlike his father and grandfather, Thomas had no public ambition; his tastes lay in the direction of sport and society. He seems to have inherited the same sense of humour and tendency to buffoonery that has been observed in others of the family, notably Thomas, 2nd Lord, and George of Ockham. He was universally known as Tom Onslow. Wraxall says of him:

> "In his person he was low, rather indeed beneath the middle stature, and destitute of any eloquence or grace; most fluent in discourse, his words and ideas always seeming to press for utterance . . . he possessed an infinity of wit, if unfortunately it had not too frequently degenerated into buffoonery. Yet Her Majesty and the princesses, her daughters, delighted in his society, seeming to enjoy his most eccentric flights of humour, fancy and mimicry. They were peculiar to himself, baffling all attempt at description. In order to spare the Eye, tho' he might sometimes wound the ear, he usually performed them behind a screen (!). On himself not less than on his acquaintances he exercised his satire, sparing neither his own defects of mind or person."

Born in 1754, he was about eight years older than the Prince of Wales, but in spite of the difference in age the two became friends, doubtless because their tastes were congenial. Among the circle of his acquaintances surrounding the Prince were many exceptional men; there may not be great good to be said of some, but of all much that is interesting. Among them were the Duke of Queensberry,

THOMAS, 2ND EARL OF ONSLOW.
From the painting at Clandon Park.

Old " Q " as he was called, Lothian, Sheridan, Lake, George Hanger, Jack Payne, Lade, Tarleton and many others.

Queensberry's oddities and extravagances are still remembered, while Sheridan is a notable figure. Lade was scarcely a friend of Tom's, although a rival expert in the art of driving; he inherited a large fortune on coming of age which he at once set to work to waste. Even before his majority, his extravagance, like that of Barrymore who was another of the Prince's friends, had become notorious. Lade carried his love of driving to such excess that he imitated with as much accuracy as he was able, not only the skill but also the appearance of a stage coachman, a taste he shared with other driving enthusiasts of his day. Tom had the greatest contempt for these imitations of stage coachmen, which he expressed with some freedom in an *Epilogue* which he addressed to them.

The following brief extracts give an indication of its contents:

> " I drove 6 horses in hand every day for a whole season at Ramsgate ! In short, every trick that could be played with 4 or 6 horses I have been fool enough to practise for nearly 50 years without one accident or one rival ! Now I am not mentioning these things by way of claiming eminence in the profession, as I really feel rather ashamed at the proficiency to which I have reached, because after all I can only do what the Salisbury or Birmingham Stage Coachmen can accomplish with equal perfection, even tho' they may not be able to write their own names on the panel of the coach they drive. . . . It is not quite necessary for a Duke of Bedford or a Marquess of Hastings to submit to the classical associations which must result from dining with one or more stage coachmen at the bar of any Inn. . . . If the Duke of Bedford drives as well as the Liverpool Stage Coachman, I see no reason in Philosophy why he should not do any other act like a graceful young Duke of Bedford instead of like an old illiterate Stage Coachman. . . . I own my object in life as to driving has been always to manage my reins and my whip with the dexterity of the Coachman, but why I was therefore to try to converse like one, to knock out a front tooth, to be able to spit like one, or to get up on the box like one, as if I had a way book under my left breast and a very heavy rheumatic cough (as if from driving on winter nights) I am free to confess I cannot conceive or have any idea of whatever ! . . . My ambition, I own, has been to try to ' look like a gentleman

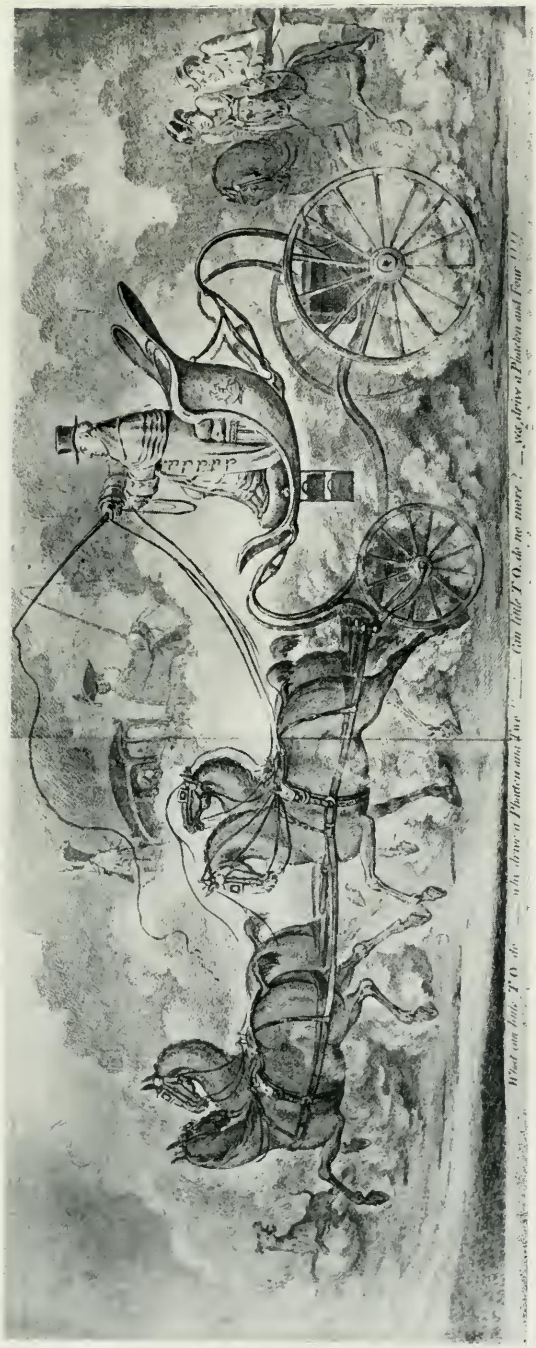
and to drive like a coachman'! But as the modern votaries of the whip know better than I do, their object appears to 'look like Coachmen and to drive like Gentlemen' and I think they have succeeded more than I have."

Tom was not beloved by the members of the Four-in-Hand Club on account of his witticisms at their expense. The most prominent among them besides Lade and those mentioned in the *Epilogue* were Sir Vincent Cotton and Charley Tyrrwhit who drove the Brighton "Age"; Lords Harborough and Clonmel who drove the Holyhead Mail; Sir Charles Bampfylde of Poltimore, M.P. for Exeter and great-great-grandfather of the present Lady Onslow, who drove the Exeter Coach; Sir Bellingham Graham of Norton Conyers; Sir Thomas Mostyn and Sir Felix Agar. Tom was said to be too eccentric (*Gronow Memoirs*) to be elected a member of the Four-in-Hand Club. He always drove coal-black horses, which, however, were said to be the finest in England, while his carriage was painted black and his whole turn-out presented a most funereal appearance.

Gilray, the caricaturist, portrayed him in a well-known caricature under which ran the following lines:

"What can little T.O. do?
Why drive a phæton and two.
Can little T.O. do no more?
Yes, drive a phæton and four."

Driving was not Tom's only amusement, although it was his favourite. He was a cricketer, and one of the founders of the M.C.C.: he was also, in spite of his small size, no mean bruiser. One day, while driving through the narrow streets of Guildford, he met a cart stacked with brushwood; as Tom was driving a team he had the right of the road, but the carter refused to give way. "This must be seen to," said Tom, and throwing his reins to the groom he jumped down and challenged the carter to fight it out. The man did so, but in a very short time Tom had laid him out (*Clandon MSS.*). We do not hear much of his doings at the ringside, but it is said that he was a backer of the celebrated Gully.



THOMAS, 2ND EARL OF ONSLOW.
from the caricature by Gilray.

face p. 40

The Prince of Wales was a frequent visitor at Clandon in these days; in fact, he seems to have invited himself there very much as he liked—at least, it would appear so from the following letter:

> My dear Tom,
>
> I mean to do myself the pleasure of dining with you this day at Clandon and am not quite certain whether I shall pursue my journey on to Brighton in the evening or stay at Clandon till Tomorrow Morning.
>
> Adieu,
>
> I remain, My Dear Tom,
>
> Ever most affectionately,
>
> George P.
>
> Saturday Morning, 7 o'clock.
> *September* 11, 1784.

Wraxall tells us that although Tom was a Member of Parliament for nearly thirty years he never once addressed the House, nor does it appear that after the death of his father he ever spoke in the House of Lords. He entered Parliament in 1777 as M.P. for Rye. In 1780 he appeared as Government Candidate for the County of Surrey, but although he had the support of the Government and of the Court he was beaten. At first he and Sir Joseph Mawbey were the only candidates, and Mawbey seems to have promised his support to Tom; later, however, Admiral Keppel, who had recently been beaten at Windsor, allowed himself to be nominated. Tom was accused (with truth) of having voted against the Resolution of the House of Commons "that the influence of the Crown has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished," and a strong committee was formed to support Keppel, who, it may be said, was ready to spare no expense to secure his return. 3606 freeholders voted at this election, and the figures were:

Mawbey	2419
Keppel	2179
Onslow	1506

Tom, beaten for Surrey, returned to Rye, which he represented from 1780 to 1784. In 1784 he stood for Guildford, and continued to represent the borough for twenty-two years.

In 1790 the seat was contested. There were three candidates: Tom, Chapple Norton, and George Sumner. Tom was proposed by Mr. John Shrubb, and seconded by Dr. William Newland; Norton by Mr. Shrubb and Dr. Smith, and Sumner by Mr. Skurrey and the Rev. Clifton. Each candidate was represented by Counsel, who examined the voters as they came to the poll, and decisions as to whether the vote should be allowed were made by the Mayor. The following are samples of some of the claims of Tom's supporters:

> "How long have you had your freehold?" Mr. John Oliver was asked.
>
> "About three weeks."
>
> "Do you mean to sell it directly after the election?"
>
> "I never mean to sell it."
>
> "Did not your landlord say he had sold the house that his tenant might vote?"

This last statement was proved and the vote disputed, but Tom's Counsel argued that no one could have known for certain three weeks before that the election was to take place, and therefore there was no proof that the property was acquired to secure a vote. The vote was allowed.

The next voter had only obtained his house the day before, but the same argument was advanced and the vote allowed. Another, a man named Saker, was really a tenant of Tom's father, but on the latter's agent saying that Lord Onslow received no rent from Saker he was declared a freeholder! In another case the rate-collector had forgotten to make up his book, but "believed" the voter owned the house he lived in: the voter also "believed" he was the owner, but forgot when he acquired it! Another voter named Keene was challenged on the ground that he had received relief, but the relieving officer had forgotten the fact and had lost his book! Mr. Cole claimed a vote on the ground that he had a cow-stable, and proved it by saying that his cow was in the stable (the cow having been put there the day before); Mr. Vincent claimed a cellar on the ground that he had twelve bottles of wine in it. Both these claims were allowed.

With all this goodwill on the part of the voters and the returning officers it would have been hard had Tom not been returned. Only 86 voters polled, of whose votes Tom secured 67, Sumner 46 and Norton 43. On the following day Norton retired, and Tom and Sumner were declared elected. The public houses were then thrown open at the expense of the two newly elected members, and a scene of great disorder ensued, the riots lasting for the best part of twenty-four hours, during which bonfires were lighted outside Trinity Church, fed by doors, railings, and anything that would burn (Williamson, *Guildford in the Olden Time*).

Tom sat for Guildford until 1806, when he retired in favour of his second son, Thomas Cranley.

To conclude the review of his public service we must glance briefly at his military career. In 1794 an Act was passed to encourage the enrolment of volunteers, and in Surrey Lord Leslie took advantage of this to form a corps of Yeomanry Cavalry. Leslie became Colonel, and Tom was appointed Lieut.-Colonel. The birth of this corps and Tom's new military rank were celebrated by him in a poem entitled " The Surrey Yeomanry " (*Clandon MSS.*).

Three years later the 2nd battalion of the Surrey Militia was revived, and Tom was appointed Colonel on January 2nd, 1797. On December 31st, 1797, he was given the rank of Colonel in the Army. The regiment formed part of the South Coast Defence Army, but after the conclusion of the Peace of Amiens in 1802, it was disembodied and was not called up again until the war broke out afresh in 1803. They were quartered first at Ashford, then at Chelmsford, and later at Hull, where they remained until 1806, when they proceeded to Rochester, Hythe, and in 1808 to Ramsgate, where Tom tells us he had admirable opportunities for driving his team. During the next three years they were quartered at various places in the South of England. In 1811 the regiment was asked for volunteers to serve in Ireland, in order to relieve the German mercenary troops who were required to reinforce Wellesley in Portugal. Tom was successful in his appeal, and was able to inform the Government that the whole battalion with the exception of one sergeant, one corporal, and eighty privates had volun-

teered. The volunteers for Ireland were sent to Bristol under the command of Col. Sir R. Frederick, but Tom remained behind in charge of the depot. He had commanded the regiment for fifteen years and most of the time had been embodied; moreover, his father was ill and wanted him to undertake the duties of Vice-Lieutenant. Tom, therefore, resigned command of the regiment, handing it over to his son Cranley, who had recently returned from the Peninsular War. Such then were Tom's public services in the field and the senate, and they cannot, we fear, be considered eminent.

Tom was very domesticated and on excellent terms with his father. His rhyming letters to the latter, written from Clandon when his father was at Bath, are still extant: they are amusing, but scarcely quotable.

Throughout his life Tom was on the best terms with the Queen and the Princesses, and for many years with the Prince of Wales; later, however, he quarrelled with the latter. It is needless to revive old scandals, which have been forgotten for over a century: it is sufficient that the subject of quarrel was not discreditable either to Tom or to the Prince. Tom, from generous motives, acted very inconsiderately to the Prince, who naturally resented it; more need not be said, but the breach was never healed.

Tom's first wife died in 1782, and in 1783 he married Charlotte, daughter of William Hale of King's Walden, Herts, and widow of Thomas Duncombe of Duncombe Park. Mrs. Onslow was in waiting on Queen Charlotte, and was a great favourite with the Queen, who presented her with two beautiful Dresden china tea services, both of which are still at Clandon.

According to the *Jockey Club*, a scurrilous publication of the early days of the nineteenth century, Tom's quarrel with the Prince had no effect on his equanimity. He continued to drive his horses and amuse himself as of old, although towards the end of his life he lived less in London and more at Clandon. Until his death, however, he continued to sit on the bench, and to be a member of the Surrey Magistrates' Club, of which in 1812 no less than eight Onslows were members—Tom, his father and his

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CHARLOTTE, 2ND WIFE OF THOMAS,
2ND EARL OF ONSLOW.
from the painting at Clandon Park.

three sons, Sergeant Arthur Onslow, M.P., the Rev. George Walton and the Rev. A. Onslow.

His father was very infirm during the last two years of his life, and Tom acted as Vice-Lieutenant of the County for him, but on his death the reversion of the Lord Lieutenancy which had been in the family for just 100 years did not fall to Tom, probably on account of the quarrel with the Regent; he, however, succeeded his father as High Steward of Guildford and Kingston-on-Thames.

After succeeding to the Earldom he lived almost entirely at Clandon. He was very popular in the neighbourhood, for he was a good landlord and a generous neighbour.

In 1819 Lady Onslow died, and after her death Tom became very infirm, and no longer drove his coach, but he still liked society. He opened the drive through Clandon to the public, and he used to sit at the library window and chaff the passers-by from Guildford, with whom the old Lord was ever a favourite.

Towards the end he could not walk, and had to be carried by two footmen in a carrying chair. On one occasion the dinner was late, and Tom enquired the reason.

> " If you please, my Lord," said the butler, " the footmen are quarrelling as to whose business it is to bring up the potatoes."
>
> " Send them here," said Tom.
>
> " Carry me down to the kitchen," said he to the footmen.
>
> " Now give me the potatoes, and carry me back to the dining-room."

In 1827 he died at the age of 73, leaving five children, three sons and a daughter by his first wife, and one daughter by his second. The two daughters died unmarried, the elder, Lady Harriet, in 1837, and the younger, Lady Georgiana, so called after the Prince of Wales who was her godfather, in 1829. Both of them lived with their unmarried brother, Colonel Edward Mainwaring Onslow, at Woodbridge, near Guildford.

GUILDFORD ONSLOW, M.P., AND THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT.[1]

Guildford James Mainwaring Ellerker Onslow was the second son of Colonel Thomas Cranley Onslow, and grandson of Thomas Earl of Onslow. His father had served in the Scots Guards, where he distinguished himself in the Peninsular War; he was afterwards M.P. for Guildford, and for many years commanded the Surrey Militia.

Guildford was educated at Eton and then entered his father's regiment. In 1838, when but twenty-four, he married his cousin Rosa Anne, daughter of General Denzil Onslow, of Staughton, Huntingdon, and the marriage proved a happy one, but his one child, Rosina Augusta, born in 1839, only lived a year, and died at Naples in 1840.

On his marriage, Guildford left the army and settled down to the life of a country gentleman in Hampshire, at The Grove, Ropley, not far from his father's place at Alresford. Here he lived quietly till the year 1858, when he was invited to contest the Borough of Guildford in the Liberal interest at a bye-election. He was opposed by Mr. Evelyn of Wotton, but won the election and was returned to Parliament.

Guildford seems to have entered Parliament with some reputation as a speaker, but although he was ready and witty on a platform he never succeeded in gaining the attention of the House of Commons; nevertheless, he was considerably favoured by the Liberal party in his early days in the House, and there was constant talk of his receiving some appointment in the Government, but this never materialized.

In 1861 Guildford's uncle Edward died, and he inherited the Ellerker estates in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Like his uncle, he took the name and arms of Mainwaring Ellerker, and became a D.L. for Yorkshire and for Lincolnshire; but he did not live at Risby Hall in Yorkshire, being content to remain in Hampshire and to represent Guildford.

During the first ten years of his representation of the

[1] The usual printed sources of information, including Kenealy, "The Tichborne Tragedy," have been used in compiling this article, also certain private information.

Borough, Guildford returned two members, one of whom, Bovill, the Solicitor General, was a Conservative.

In 1866 Bovill was raised to the Bench as Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and it became necessary to choose a new member. Pocock, supported by Guildford, was the Liberal candidate; Garth, afterwards Sir Richard Garth, the Conservative. Pocock polled 300 votes and Garth 340, so the Conservative won the battle. Under the 1867 Reform Act, the representation of Guildford was reduced from two members to one, and this resulted in a contest between the two sitting members, Guildford and Garth. Guildford defeated his opponent after a close fight by the small margin of 19 votes, but an attempt was made to get him unseated for bribery, on the ground that the railway fares of three voters had been paid. The petition, however, failed, as it was proved that the payment was made by a private person, and Guildford remained secure in his seat. The result of this was a subscription by the wives and daughters of the Liberal voters, who purchased a silver Loving Cup, and presented it to Guildford as a mark of their esteem on being returned the first sole representative of the Borough. The presentation took place in the County and Borough Hall, and was made by Mrs. Werninck, the wife of one of Guildford's chief adherents. Guildford gave the cup afterwards to his nephew, and it is still at Clandon.

We now come to the most extraordinary part of Guildford's career, namely, his support of the Tichborne Claimant.

Sir Roger Tichborne was the son of Sir James Tichborne, and was born in 1829. In 1854 he was drowned at sea on board the *Bella*, on which ship he had embarked at Rio de Janeiro. Alone among his friends and relations, his mother persisted in believing him to be still alive and continued to advertise for him in the English and Colonial newspapers. In November, 1865, she heard through an agency that a man answering the description of her son had been discovered at Wagga Wagga in Australia, and after some correspondence she declared she was prepared to accept him as her son, and induced him to leave Australia.

Shortly after the Claimant's return to England, Arabella and Matilda, Guildford's two sisters, were driving through

Alresford when they passed a dogcart in which were seated Edward Rous and a stranger. The ladies discussed the stranger's identity, and remarked to each other that he was "so like a Tichborne," and on returning home they told Guildford of the occurrence. He informed them that the man they had seen was the Claimant; later they met him, and were both positive that Orton was the Roger Tichborne whom they had known in their youth. Both Arabella and Matilda remained firm in their opinion, and to the end of their lives believed in the genuineness of the Claimant.

Guildford Onslow has left a signed statement, which is printed in *The Tichborne Tragedy*.

"In the month of September, 1867, I met the Claimant "at the house of a gentleman in Hampshire on the occasion "of a shooting party. I had about one hour's conversation "with him and the first words I said were 'your face is very "familiar to me and although much stouter I recognise "you.' Upon which he said, 'I don't remember you; "I knew your brother (George Augustus, who was dead,) "very well; he had a peculiar nickname which I have for-"gotten, and I have often thought of him.' I mentioned "five or six nicknames, and the claimant picked out the "right—rather a peculiar one. He described my brother's "personal appearance and peculiarities exactly; but he "said 'when did I meet you?' I replied 'In France, and "once at Tichborne.' 'France, France,' he said then, "'I remember, it was at Boulogne.' I said it was. He "then added 'It was when I was stopping at my cousin's "Lady Dormer's in 1847.' This was correct.

"The second time I met him, I said, was at Tichborne "Park. This he did not recollect until I told him the "circumstances under which I then spoke to him; and he "said he remembered it, adding, 'your father was driving "a pair of ponies,' which was a fact. Feeling much "interested in the man I began to think of some former "incident by which I could test him. One occurred to "me. Knowing the propensity his father, Sir James Tich-"borne, had of swearing, especially when out shooting and "there was a dispute about who had killed a bird, I formed "a plan to see if he recognised it. The party, consisting

" of four, walked in line down a turnip field. A bird rose, " the Claimant killed it: upon which I ran up and said 'Oh, " this is Roger's bird' using the exact oaths Sir James used " to use, at the same time mimicking his manner; on which " he burst out laughing and said, 'Oh, I see what you are at; " you are taking off my poor father; but you ought to say, " " really, really !"' Two or three of the party who knew " Sir James well immediately exclaimed, 'Ah, that's just " what he used to say.' This anecdote I mentioned to a " member of the Tichborne family, who exclaimed, throw- " ing up his hands, 'Why, he must be the real man, for that " is perfectly true.'

" Since that day I have been most intimate with the " Claimant, he in my house, I in his, talking of byegone " days and byegone scenes—anecdotes of his family, their " oddities and peculiarities. Over a cigar in my smoking " room we have passed many an hour, full of anecdote, full " of fun. I have always found him to exhibit a perfect " knowledge of his family and their ways, and a most amusing " companion I ever found him. He often used to shoot " with me, I found him perfectly up to all the rules of the " field and a fair game shot, although above the average at " the pigeon trap. Whilst shooting together he used to " relate sporting anecdotes and mention places where " they had occurred at or near Tichborne. He told me he " found more hares in 'the crawls' than in any other place: " the spot where the snipe laid in Tichborne meadows; " the places at Colmore where he shot in the coverts; how " he rolled over the hares in crossing certain points—all " of which was correct. His knowledge of Savernake " Forest was correct and extraordinary.

" One day while at luncheon under a hedge on the top of " Burgner Hill, which commands a perfect panorama of " Hampshire, I questioned him as to all points of view, " purposely pretending that I did not know the names, " when in reality I was familiar with every gate and hedge- " row in the county. I first pointed to a fine avenue of fir " trees and asked him what place it was? He said im- " mediately it was a meet of the H.H. and it was called " the 'Old House.' I asked him what old House? He

" said he had forgotten the name, but it had belonged to a " family connected with the Barings, and immediately said " ' Chilton Old House.' He said that the owner was a " nobleman some hundred years ago. Here he was wrong, " as to its belonging to the Barings, but right as to the " nobleman, and right as to its being a meet of the H.H. " It is now a property of the Barings. I next asked him, " ' when you found a fox there where did he run to ?' He " said we never found a fox there, but had to go over the " hills to Chilton Wood, which is some couple of miles " off. In this he was perfectly correct. He pointed out " every headland correctly.

" His knowledge of Hampshire in 1867 was nearly as " accurate as my own. Since that day we have shot together " in Surrey and Hampshire, and many startling incidents " have occurred all proving his unmistakable identity with " Roger Tichborne. He has given me most accurate " descriptions of men long since dead, whom we both " knew; especially about my father whom he knew well and " who died in 1861. He and I were once shown a caricature " of a Hampshire gentleman by D'Orsay, very like in features " to my father. The Claimant on seeing it remarked, " ' That is your poor father, Onslow,' and I thought it was " at first glance, but it was not, and the Claimant immediate- " ly said, ' oh no, no, that's Long of Penshaw '; and so it " was. Now my father never had a picture taken of himself " and had been dead since 1861.[1] I was much struck with " the ability with which the Claimant threw his fly when " fishing. I followed him often down the river, and was " astonished at the way he knew every spot of it, and where " to find a trout. Every nook and corner and hole he " pointed out to me and showed me spots I had forgotten, " where he used to put in his landing net and take out " trout. But he said that the best place for that was a place " called ' Tichborne Jar.' Now this ' Tichborne Jar ' " was in the meadows at the back of Borough Bridge, de- " stroyed by the railroad. No one living, I believe, but " John Davey the Waterman knew of that place. The

[1] Guildford was in error. An engraving of Colonel Cranley Onslow, which belonged to my grandfather, is at Clandon.—*O.*

" Claimant described it exactly. It was a hole bricked all " over, used for purposes of irrigation.

" There are few men who can beat me at fly fishing in " the Itchen, and I call the Claimant one of the best I have " ever met with. He knew every Hampshire fly; calling " them by their proper names, for instance, the dark, the " light hare's ear, the red spinner, the orange dun and the " coachman. I asked him where he got his flies from when " in England. He said 'I bought them from a man in " Winchester.'

" On one occasion I asked him if he belonged to any of " the London Clubs? He replied, 'yes, the Army & Navy.' " I said 'who proposed you?' He answered, 'I think I " was proposed by Custance and seconded by either Foster " or a Col. Harvey.' 'And when you went abroad who " paid your subscriptions?' He said 'old Hubbard's son- " in-law by desire of my father.' Some time after that I " went to the Army and Navy Club with the late Sir John " Simeon, M.P. and we looked over the books of the club " and found Mr. Roger Tichborne a member in 1852 (I " think) presumably drowned in 1854. He was proposed " by Captain Custance and seconded by Captain Foster.

" On one occasion at a large dinner party at a club, the " conversation turned upon opinions as to which was the " best club in London. Some said one, some another. The " Claimant, when White's was mentioned, said, 'Ah that " was my father's club, and he was very proud of belonging " to it.' I said, 'No, your father was not a member of " White's, was he?' He answered, 'yes, it is on the right hand " side as you walk up St. James's Street.' I said no more " at the time, but the next day I walked up St. James's " Street and asked him to point out his father's club. Upon " which he immediately pointed to Boodle's Club and said, " 'That was my father's,' and so in fact it was; and he " added, 'I used to live in that street opposite.' I have " since found that this was also correct.

" I have frequently taken him to the House of Commons " and have introduced him to members; and on one occasion " Captain Gossett invited him into his private room used " for smoking. On all these occasions my friends in the

" House have said, ' I don't know who your friend is, but he " is a gentleman.' And my experience of him after seven " years' close intimacy is that he is not only a gentleman " in manner but in mind also. He can converse on every " topic; is at home on all occasions, and I have heard him " at Swansea make a speech on Colonial Government which " lasted over one hour, and would not have disgraced a " Cabinet Minister. His kind engaging manner in the " drawing room with ladies is remarkable, and his voice and " manner are strikingly like the Tichbornes. He's wonder- " fully like his younger brother, the late Alfred Tichborne " and the late Sir Henry Tichborne in face and manner. " I find him a capital chess player. He perfectly understands " the gambits of chess, besides being a remarkably good " ecarté player. His ear for music is good. He can hear a " tune in the street and then pick it off on the piano: a very " good and scientific painter, he is an excellent judge of " pictures. I introduced him to Lady Burrard, who is " an excellent artist and paints well: she showed him her " paintings, upon which he immediately entered into all " the particulars of the art; the mixing of colours, and " his opinion upon colours etc., etc., much to the amusement " and delight of that lady.

" He is an excellent rider, and when he first came to this " country I lent him a horse up to his weight—then only " 18 stone—and I am told he astonished the natives in a " good thing across the stiffest part of the Old Surrey " County; and a well known London Horse Dealer offered " him £300 for the horse he was riding. His knowledge of " the immediate neighbourhood is remarkable. He has " taken me to out-of-the-way trees to show me where he " carved his name years ago and there it was—' R. C. T.'— " thus showing to my mind that it was not only in Australia " where he was in the habit of carving and cutting his " name.

" I remember well one evening in 1870 after a day's " shooting, whilst at dinner in my house at Ropley, Mrs. " Onslow asking the Claimant what wine he would drink? " He said, ' not any,' we pressed him to have some cham- " pagne, but he declined, then I said ' Tichborne, now what

" wine do you like best?' upon which he replied, ' Well I " confess I have a weakness for Madeira.' I was delighted " for I had some 55 years old. I immediately ordered a " bottle and said, ' What do you think of that?' He " replied, ' capital, but I think I have tasted this before.' " I said ' never,' he retorted, ' well I think I have tasted it " at Tichborne, it is very like the wine that Hopkins sent " some of to my father.' Upon which I immediately " remarked ' *I bought that wine of Mr. Hopkins at his sale.*'

" During the years of my acquaintance with the Claimant " I never heard an oath or a coarse word pass his lips except " once when he denounced Jean Line as a ' plant put upon " him.' I have never heard an angry word against his " family: he has always spoken of them in the kindest " manner: and as I flatter myself I know what a gentleman " is, I say, I never met in the whole course of my life a " kinder, more amiable, gentleman-like, agreeable man in " society. He is extremely proud and tenacious and easily " put out by imagined slights and coldness of manner, but " always behaves like a gentleman in these circumstances; " and I have seen him tried pretty severely, more than I " could have stood, by those who have shown him they " suspected he was an impostor. He takes the lead in " conversation at dinner parties, freely discussing politics, " religion, foreign travel, and often quoting in good French. " He will talk of Byron and Shelley and Shakespeare, and " he is remarkably clever in pointing out how things are " manufactured and made. I remember on one occasion " whilst standing on the steps of the Travellers' Club having " called on a friend inside the building, the Claimant passed " by; he remarked, ' Onslow, what Club is that you have " just come out of?' I replied, ' why, what do you know " of that Club?' He answered, ' I think I belong to it.' " ' How's that?' said I. His reply was, ' if it is the club I " think it is there is a rule in that club that a candidate must " travel a certain distance, which distance I had not accom- " plished till I got to S. America, when I wrote to my " uncle, Danby Seymour, to put my name down.' I " asked, ' do you remember the name of the Club?' He " replied, ' no,' I then said, ' The Travellers' Club,' upon

" which he rejoined ' oh yes it was,' and he added, ' I think " I must have been a member.' In a letter produced in " Court this story of the Claimant proved to be correct.

" Long before he went into the witness box and long " before it was proved by letter, the Claimant explained to " me every occurrence that happened to him in his mule " passage over the Cordilleras, even to the most minute " particulars of the journey.

" I could mention many other things that I have heard " him say during the long evenings we have spent together " as conclusive evidence of his identity. I could relate " anecdotes of him that would startle an unbeliever. His " knowledge of my family, the anecdotes he has told me of " his, would fill a volume. But I think I have said enough " to satisfy the public mind that I had good grounds in " giving him my support independently of the promise I " made to his mother the Dowager Lady Tichborne, shortly " before her death, that I would never desert her son.

" Guildford Onslow."

Guildford's faith in the Claimant was absolute; he believed in him from the first and believed in him to the end, and not only did he believe in him, but he was prepared to back his belief with money. When the Claimant first arrived in this country, Lady Tichborne had given him an allowance of £1,000 a year, but she died in 1868, and he began to be beset by his creditors. Guildford came to the rescue and lent him £600, and eventually advanced him as much as £6,000 and paid on his behalf as much as £9,000 more.

The Ejection action against the Tichborne trustees, tried by Guildford's old colleague at Guildford, Chief Justice Bovill, did not begin until May, 1871, and was not concluded until 1872. It resulted in the Claimant being non-suited, and an order for his arrest for perjury was immediately made out by Bovill. He was arrested whilst in Guildford's company, and that of his solicitor Spofforth; before long, however, he was released on bail and immediately went down to Hampshire to be Guildford's guest at Ropley. The Claimant was now more than ever in need of money, and Guildford, whose credulity seemed to wax as the credibility

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GUILDFORD ONSLOW.
Caricature by "Ape" for Vanity Fair.

of the Claimant waned, was active in working to find the necessary sinews of war for the defence. A Tichborne Defence Fund was formed, of which Lord Rivers, Guildford, Dr. Attwood and Mr. Warren Streeter were the trustees. A special newspaper was founded called the *Tichborne Gazette*, of which Guildford was a moving spirit.

Besides these activities, Guildford organized a campaign throughout the country on the lines of a political " stump " to canvass the cause of the Claimant, the first meeting taking place at Alresford. Accompanied by Guildford, and preceded by a " large body of respectable looking men wearing blue rosettes " and a band, the Claimant entered Alresford and proceeded to the hotel, where he was welcomed by cheering crowds. Guildford then addressed the people, giving the working classes credit for having obtained the release of the Claimant, and announcing that it was intended to visit Birmingham, Bristol, Southampton, Bradford and other places " for the sole purpose of engaging the public voice in the cause of fair play."

The Alresford meeting was denounced in the Press (*The Times* had a two-column leader on Guildford's enormities) as scandalous, on the ground that if an accused person on bail may hold public meetings to protest his innocence there is no reason why an accuser should not hold public meetings to inflame opinion against a defendant. Quite undeterred, however, Guildford went about England on the " stump " for the Claimant, to the neglect of his duties in the House of Commons, and regardless of criticism or comment. In December, 1872, Guildford and Mr. Whalley, M.P., held a meeting at St. James's Hall, where apparently they used the most unbridled language in abusing all connected with the former trial—Judge, Jury, Counsel and Witnesses.

For this they were summoned to appear before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Blackburn, Mellor and Lush, sitting in banco in the Court of Queen's Bench, to answer for their contempt of court. Sir J. Karslake appeared for Guildford, Mr. Seymour for Whalley. Practically there was no defence, and the Judges summoned the two delinquents before them to stand upon the floor of the court. The Lord Chief Justice was very severe, and found them guilty

of an aggravated form of contempt, but in view of the fact that but small harm had been done he only sentenced them to a fine of £100 each, and to be imprisoned pending the payment of the fine. Remembering that it had been decided in the Wilkes case that a member of Parliament cannot be imprisoned except for treason, sedition or actual breach of the peace, the Lord Chief Justice added: "It is not, however, necessary as to persons of your position to add the latter part of the sentence, and therefore the sentence is that you each pay a fine of £100." *The Times*, in commenting on the proceedings, said that this trial excited greater interest than anything of the kind since the sentence on Wilkes in the same court for seditious libel.

When the criminal trial began in April, 1873, Guildford, as one of the Claimant's bail, entered the court with him, but was promptly turned out on the ground that he had not a ticket signed by Cockburn. The Judges took the unusual course in this case of excluding from Court all but those holding tickets signed by the Chief Justice. His exclusion was a handicap to Dr. Kenealy, the Claimant's Counsel, who depended on him to help him with his knowledge, as he had had but little time to get up so formidable a case; Kenealy made a representation to this effect to Cockburn, but without effect.

Although excluded from the Court, Guildford stood by the Claimant throughout the trial. He went everywhere with him, provided him with money, lent him his carriage daily to take him to court, and did everything in his power to help him. Among other things Guildford prepared a booklet dealing with the Tichborne case, which he circulated privately. The preface ran as follows:

> "It having been insinuated in more than one quarter that in taking part in the late trial I was wittingly upholding a base impostor, I think it right to place before the world . . . some of the data on which I have acted (independently of personal recognition and a close intimacy with the Claimant during the past seven years)."

All, however, was in vain. The proceedings lasted until February, 1874, and on the 188th day the Jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to fourteen years

imprisonment. Even after the Claimant went to prison Guildford still believed in him, and to the end of his life called him Sir Roger, and visited him in his cell in gaol.

But this advocacy of the Claimant did poor Guildford great harm in his constituency. The rumour began to circulate that he did not intend to stand again, and indeed he seems to have had some doubts about doing so; for during 1873 his health had not been very robust. In 1874 an election was suddenly sprung on the country by Gladstone, who advised the Queen to dissolve Parliament without consulting any of his colleagues but Goschen, Granville and Cardwell. In view of the surprise dissolution, Guildford, although he would have preferred to retire, consented to stand again, as retirement would have obliged the party to find a new candidate at the eleventh hour.

His opponent in the Conservative interest was another Onslow—Denzil—the nephew of Sir Matthew Onslow, 3rd Bart., Guildford's cousin. In looking through old newspaper reports of byegone elections it is almost inconceivable that even in their most excited moments people could have talked such arrant nonsense. Guildford Onslow seems to have entertained a bitter personal antipathy to his opponent and to have tried to make out that he was not a real Onslow at all! Denzil retaliated by pretending that all the Onslows had been Conservatives until the time of Guildford! There was much more on similar lines, and of course the part played by Guildford in the Tichborne case was not without its effect in the constituency. Apart from this, however, there was a very real feeling of dissatisfaction with the Liberal Government, and a strong wave of Conservative reaction, which was proved by the results of the election. In the English boroughs there was a nett Liberal loss of 37 seats, while in Ireland but 12 Liberals were returned; the Conservative majority in England and Wales amounted to 105 and in Great Britain to 83. Guildford had retained his seat chiefly by his personal popularity, but this he had outlived; he had neglected his duties in the House to stump the country for the Claimant, and for this he had been fined for contempt of court. The other candidate was also an Onslow, and he had a house in Guild-

ford, while Guildford lived in Hampshire. Denzil was young and popular with a popular wife; he was a sportsman and a cricketer, and had spent some years nursing the constituency, which Guildford had neglected. The combined causes resulted in a heavy defeat for poor Guildford Onslow. The figures were:

Denzil Onslow	673
Guildford Onslow	430
Majority	243

Guildford did not take his defeat very well, and wrote a foolish letter accusing his relative of unfair behaviour. He never forgave Denzil for beating him, and lost no opportunity of attacking him in the Press for his actions in Parliament. After 1874 he took but little part in politics, and his last appearance on a political platform was at the General Election of 1880, when he supported the Liberal candidate, Mr. Kemp, who, however, was beaten by Denzil by 134. In 1882 Guildford died suddenly, and after his death his old popularity was remembered in Guildford and his foolish conduct forgotten.