



HERE LIETH T<sup>H</sup> BODY OF RICHARD DRAKE ESQ ONE  
 OF T<sup>H</sup> VERRIES OF OURE LATE S<sup>U</sup>VERA<sup>N</sup>E ELIZABETH STAES  
 WHO LIVED IN GREAT CREDIT W<sup>IT</sup>H ALL MEN & IN HIGH FAVOR W<sup>IT</sup>H  
 HIS PRINCE AS ANY MAN OF HIS CALING HE MARRIED VASVLA  
 STAFFORD DAUGHTER OF S<sup>R</sup> WILLIA STAFFORD & DORO<sup>TH</sup>  
 STAFFORD DECEDED FROM T<sup>H</sup> HONORABLE HOUSE OF  
 B<sup>U</sup>VINGHA. HE DIED T<sup>H</sup> XI DAY OF IVLY 1603 IN T<sup>H</sup> 69<sup>TH</sup>  
 YEARE OF HIS AGE HE HAD ISSV ONLY FRANCIS DRAKE W<sup>HO</sup>  
 HATH ERECTED T<sup>H</sup> MONVMENT IN MEMORIAL OF HIM

VITA M<sup>U</sup>NDI H<sup>U</sup>IC S<sup>U</sup>NT H<sup>U</sup>NDI Q<sup>U</sup>AE S<sup>U</sup>PER R<sup>U</sup>MORE D<sup>U</sup>RMEN; D<sup>U</sup>RMEN E<sup>U</sup>N N<sup>U</sup>LLUM NON D<sup>U</sup>RESCEDD<sup>U</sup>  
 H<sup>U</sup>C M<sup>U</sup>NDAT METAS; M<sup>U</sup>NDAT VENERANDA P<sup>U</sup>B<sup>U</sup>STAS; M<sup>U</sup>NDAVIT NOMEN H<sup>U</sup>EROSQ<sup>U</sup>E VIRI.  
 CVIVS VITA FVIT MORTIS MEDITATIO VERA; CVIVS MORS ETIAM RELIGIOSA PVIT.  
 TERRA CADAVER HABET MELIOR PARS AETHERA SCANDIT; FATA TVIERE NVEM;  
 FACTA DEDERE DECVS.

SOME ACCOUNT OF  
RICHARD DRAKE, OF ESHER PLACE,  
*temp.* QUEEN ELIZABETH.

BY SIR WILLIAM R. DRAKE, F.S.A.

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AS requested, I beg to communicate some particulars relating to one of the persons who owned the Manor of Esher, and resided there after it was alienated from the See of Winchester, to which it had been attached from an early date, and in connection with which Bishop Wainfleet erected a mansion, the centre tower of which alone remains to fix its site and show the general character of the building.

The manor with its park and mansion was purchased from the See by Henry VIII., and by that monarch added to his Honor and Chase of Hampton Court. Queen Mary restored the property to the bishopric, from which it was repurchased by Queen Elizabeth in 1582, and by her granted immediately afterwards (Rot. Pat. 25 Eliz., p. 14, m. 25), to Charles Lord Howard of Effingham, who in the following year sold it to Richard Drake, of whom I am about to give some particulars. Before doing so, however, I would call attention to the interesting Monument erected in 1603 in St. George's Church, Esher, and recently repaired<sup>1</sup> and removed to a site near the north door of the new church.

The monument is in the best taste of the last days of Queen Elizabeth. It consists of an enriched panelled entablature, surmounted by three coats of arms, and supported by two Corinthian columns, in an arched

<sup>1</sup> The illustration to this paper is from a photograph taken previous to the monument being repaired.

recess, between which is the effigy of Richard Drake, in the military dress of the period, kneeling on a cushion in the attitude of prayer.

The central coat of arms on the monument is that of Drake of Ashe, co. Devon, viz. :—

1. Argent, a wyvern, with wings displayed and tail nowed gules. (*Drake.*)
2. Argent, on a chief gules, three cinquefoils of the field. (*Billet.*)
3. Gules, on a fess argent, two molets sable. (*Hampton.*)
4. Ermine, on a chief indented sable, three cross crosslets fitchée or. (*Orwey.*)
5. Ermine, three bars azure. (*Oswell.*)
6. Azure, six lioncels, 3, 2, and 1, or. (*De la Ford.*)
7. Argent, two chevronels sable. (*Esse or Ashe.*)

Over the shield is an esquire's helmet and mantling, with a crest "a dexter arm erect, coupé at the elbow ppr., grasping a battleaxe, sable, headed argent."

On the dexter side of the monument is the same quartered coat of Drake impaling that of Stafford; viz. quarterly of six.

- 1st and 6th. Or, a chevron gules, with a canton ermine. (*Stafford of Grafton, co. Worcester.*)
2. Azure, a chief gules, over all a lion rampant or. (*Hastang of Grafton, and of Lemington, co. Warwick.*)
3. Azure, two bars or, each charged with three martlets gules. (*Burdet of Huncote, co. Leicester.*)
4. Azure, a cross argent. (*Aylesbury of Blatherwike, co. Northampton.*)
5. Ermine, a fess sable between three beehives, or. (*Fray.*)

On the sinister side of the monument is the quartered coat of Stafford, as before described.

The inscription, cut on a black marble slab between the bases of the two columns, is as follows :—

"Here lieth t<sup>he</sup> Body of RICHARD DRAKE, Esq, on of t<sup>he</sup> Queries of ovre Soveran Elizabeth's stable, who liued in great credit w<sup>th</sup> all men, & in great favor w<sup>th</sup> his Prince as any man of his calling. He married Vrsula Stafford, daughter of Sr William Stafford and

Dorothy Stafford, descended from the honorable Hovse of Buckingham. He died the xi day of July, 1603, in the 69 yeare of his age. He had issv only Francis Drake, who hath erected this monvment in memorial of him."

On the moulded base of black marble on which the monument rests, these lines in Latin are painted in gilt letters :—

"Ultimus hic sit honos tumulo superaddere carmen.  
Carmen funereum non dare, credo nefas.  
Hoc mandat pietas, mandat veneranda potestas;  
*Clarum*<sup>1</sup> mandavit nomen honosque viri.  
Cujus vita fuit mortis meditatio vœra;  
Cujus mors etiam religiosa fuit.  
Terra cadaver habet; melior pars æthera scandit;  
Fata tulere necem; facta dedere decus."

Richard Drake, born in 1535, was the third son of John Drake, of Ashe, in the county of Devon, by his wife Amy, daughter of Sir Roger Grenville, of Stow, in Cornwall. His eldest brother, Sir Bernard Drake, of Ashe, was one of that band of seamen at whose head Sir Francis Drake, the circumnavigator, was pre-eminently conspicuous, and whose influence had induced many of his name (Richard Drake amongst them), to adopt in part a seafaring life.

Of the early career of Richard Drake I do not find any record. In 1577<sup>2</sup> he was already one of the Queen's Equeries. His wife was Ursula Stafford, a lady of very illustrious historical descent, who had, both on her grandmother's and grandfather's sides, direct lineal descent from the Plantagenets. She was daughter of Sir William Stafford of Chebsey, co. Stafford, by Dorothy his wife, daughter of Henry, tenth Baron Stafford (the son and heir of Edward Stafford, K.G., third Duke of Buckingham, and Lord High Constable), by Ursula, daughter of Sir Richard Pole, K.G., and his wife Margaret Plantagenet, Countess of Salisbury, the

<sup>1</sup> This word is hypothetical: the original is entirely effaced.

<sup>2</sup> I have in my possession a portrait of Richard Drake painted in this year by Frederigo Zucchero. In the left-hand corner of the picture is Richard Drake's crest and coat of arms (which agree with the achievement on his monument), with the addition of his motto,—

"Tousiours prest a Servir."

daughter, and eventually sole heiress of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence (brother of King Edward IV.), by his wife Isabel, the eldest daughter and co-heir of Richard Nevile, K.G., Earl of Warwick (the "King-maker"). Richard Drake had also a blood Royal descent through his mother.

About the year 1583, Richard Drake established himself in the county of Surrey, having acquired, by purchase, from Lord Howard of Effingham, the fee of the manor and lordship, park, &c., of Esher. The manor-house was evidently at that time a mansion of considerable size and pretensions; it admitted of Richard Drake accommodating within its walls prisoners of war of high rank with their suites of attendants; and we learn from his son's will that it contained a gallery of pictures. In 1584, the year following his establishment at Esher, Richard Drake acquired a lease by Royal patent<sup>1</sup> of the Rectory and Manor of the Rectory of Walton-on-Thames, for the lives of himself, Ursula his wife, and Francis his son.

In 1590 a grant<sup>2</sup> was made by the Queen to Richard Drake of the stewardship of the courts and leets within the Manor of Woking, with the mastership of the game there.

I have referred to Richard Drake entertaining at his house in Esher, prisoners of war of high rank. These prisoners were Spanish grandees, in command of one of the ships of the Armada captured by Sir Francis Drake. Among them was Don Pedro de Valdez, one of the most notable Spanish noblemen and ablest officers, who held command as General of the Andalusian squadron of the Armada, when in May, 1588, it sailed from Lisbon to invade England. De Valdez was especially relied on by reason of the personal knowledge he possessed of the English Channel, derived from his previous service as commander of the Spanish fleet on the coast of Holland, when Don John of Austria was in the Netherlands.

De Valdez's services to his master Philip of Spain were, however, fated to be of brief duration, for on the

<sup>1</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 26 *Eliz.*, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Manning and Bray's *Hist. Surrey*, fo. vol. ii. p. 770.

first day (31st July, 1588) of the engagement between the English and Spanish fleets off the coast of Devon, the "Capitana," a galleon of 1,200 tons burthen, carrying De Valdez's flag, fouled one of its consorts, and became partially disabled, and the storm which then prevailed prevented effectual assistance being rendered. Froude states that the Duke de Medina Sidonia, the Admiral of the Armada, knowing the importance of Don Pedro as the only high officer in the fleet well acquainted with the Channel, despatched boats to bring him off with his crew, but he would not leave his charge, and was left to his fate. De Valdez, however, gives a different account of the Duke's conduct. Writing, after his capture, to the King of Spain, he narrates the particulars of the accident by which his ship became disabled, and bitterly complains of Sidonia's conduct.

"I did," he writes, "send word two several times to the Duke, and discharged three or four great pieces [of ordnance] to the end that all the fleet might know what distress I was in, praying him either to appoint some ship or galleas to tow me ahead, or to direct me what other course I should take; nevertheless, although he was near enough to me, and saw in what case I was, and might easily have relieved me, yet would he not do it, but, even as if we had not been your Majesty's subjects, nor employed in your service, discharged a piece [of ordnance] to call the fleet together, and followed his course, leaving me comfortless in the sight of the whole fleet; the enemy but a quarter of a league from me."<sup>1</sup>

On the morning of the 1st August, Sir Francis Drake came up with the "Capitana," and the following is an eye-witness's account of what took place:<sup>2</sup>—

"Sir Francis commanded a skiffe, or pinnace, to be sent aboarde Don Pedroe's shipp, and to sommon the said Spannyshe shipp to yelde, and with all to delyver these wordes or the like in effect (viz.), that if the captayne of the said shippe would come aboard the said Sir Francis Drake's shipp and yeeld he should have fayre warres, or otherwise after his comyng aboarde, if he should refuse to yeelde to the said Sir Frauncis, then the said Sr Francis promised that he should safely re-  
turne unto his owne shippe. Whereuppon, the said sciffe or pinnace

<sup>1</sup> Letter of Don Pedro de Valdez to the King of Spain.—*Calendar State Papers, Dom. Eliz.*, 1588.

<sup>2</sup> Deposition of James Baron in a suit in the Exchequer, *Drake v. Drake and Bodenham*. See *Exchequer Depositions, 3 James I., Michas*, No. 19, *Devon*.

rowed unto the foresaid Don Pedroe's shipp, and shortly after the said Don Pedroe came aboarde the said Sr Francis' shipp accompanied with two other Spanyerdes of name, (viz.), Don Vascoe and Don Alanscoe, and with divers other Spanyerdes whose names this deponent remembreth not. And beinge aboarde in the said shippe, the said Sr Francis Drake intertayned the said Don Pedroe in his cabbyne, and there in the hearing of this deponent, the said Sir Francis Drake did will his owne interpreter to aske the said Don Pedro in the Spannysh tongue whether he would yeeld unto him or noe, and further to tell him yf he would not yeelde he would sett him aboarde agayne. Whereupon the said Don Pedroe paused a little with himself, and afterwards yielded unto the said Sir Francis Drake and remained with him as a prisoner. And so likewise did Don Vascoe and Don Alanscoe. And thereupon the said Sir Francis Drake sent dyvers of his gent' and others aboarde the said Don Pedroe's shipp and took possession thereof, and willed the said Spanyshe shippe with her souldiers and mariners that were then within her to be brought within some harbour, (because the said Sir Francis Drake was then to followe the Spanyshe fleet) but carried the said Don Pedroe, and the foresaid Don Vasco and Don Alanscoe, and dyvers other Spaniardes whose names this deponent remembreth not, in his owne shipp. And afterwards, doubting that he should have byn compelled to followe the said Spannysh fleet further towards the north, caused the said Don Pedroe and other his company to embarke and sett ashore att severall tymes for England. And that the said Don Pedroe, Don Vascoe, and Don Alanscoe, were all three comytted to the custodie of Richard Drake, by the appointment of the said Sir Francis Drake, as this deponent verily believeth, because the said Richard Drake was one that the said Sir Francis Drake did specially account and regard as his trustie frynde."

The account given by de Valdez of his capture, in his letter to Philip, before referred to, agrees in substance with that given by the deponent, Baron, for he writes, that, after being deserted by the Duke of Medina Sidonia, he was attacked by some of the English ships, which he resisted, and defended himself all the night until the next day:—

"Hoping still that the Duke would send me some relief and not use so great inhumanity and unthankfulness towards me, for greater I think there was never heard of among men."

"The next day (he continues) finding myself in so bad case, void of all hope to be relieved, out of sight of our fleet and beset with the enemy, and Sir Francis Drake, Admiral of the enemy's fleet, bearing towards me with his ship, from whom there came a message that I should yield myself upon assurance of good usage; I went aboard him upon his word, to treat of the conditions of our yielding, wherein the best conclusion that could be taken was the safety of our lives, and courteous entertainment; for performance whereof, he gave us his hand and word of a gentleman; and promised he would use us better

than any others that were come to his hands, and would be a mean that the Queen should also do the like. Whereupon finding this was our last and best remedy, I thought good to accept of his offer. The next day he brought us to see the General [Lord Howard of Effingham], by whom I was courteously received, [he] seeming to be sorry that the Duke had used me so hardly, and confirming the same promises that Sir Francis Drake had made unto me. After ten days' space that I had been in his company he sent me to London, and with me the Captain of our 'footmen,' Don Alonzo de Layas de Leija, and Don Vasco de Mendoça y de Sylva of Xerez de los Cavalleros, who had charge of the companies that were levied in those places; and the Queen at his (Sir Francis's) request sent us four leagues off, to a gentleman's house called Richard Drake, that is his kinsman, where we receive the best usage and entertainment that may be."<sup>1</sup>

On his arrival in London, de Valdez and his co-prisoners were brought before the Council, and the result of the examination was forwarded direct to Tilbury, where Queen Elizabeth and the army intended for the defence of London were assembled; and here again we have an eye-witness in the person of Dr. Lionel Sharpe, chaplain to the Earl of Essex, who thus narrates<sup>2</sup> what took place on its receipt:—

"The Queen lying in the camp one night, guarded with her army, the old Treasurer Burleigh came thither, and delivered to the Earl the examination of Don Pedro, who was taken and brought in by Sir Francis Drake, which examination the Earl of Leicester delivered unto me to publish to the Army in my next Sermon. The sum of it was this: Don Pedro being asked what was the intent of their coming, stoutly answered the Lords:—What? But to subdue your nation, and root it out. Good, said the Lords, and what meant you then to do with the Catholics? He answered, We meant to send them (good men) directly unto Heaven, as all you that are Hereticks to Hell. Yea, but said the Lords, what meant you to do with your whips of cord and wire? (whereof they had great store in their ships). What? said he, we meant to whip you Hereticks to death, that have assisted my master's rebels and done such dishonors to our Catholick King and people. Yea, but what would you have done, said they, with their young children? They, said he, which were about seven years old, should have gone the way their fathers went, the rest should have lived, branded in the forehead with the letter 'L' for 'Lutheran,' in perpetual bondage."

It may perhaps be doubted whether the memory of the old divine was quite accurate (writing as he did several years after the occurrence he was narrating) as

<sup>1</sup> De Valdez's letter to the King of Spain, *ut ante*.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Dr. Lionel Sharpe to the Duke of Buckingham.—*"Cabala,"* 3rd ed., fo., London, 1691, p. 342.

regards the answers given by de Valdez. Froude derides the notion that the cords and wire found on board the Spanish ships were intended for purposes of torture; but treats them as stores to repair damage to the masts, sails, &c. It is, however, likely that some such statement as Dr. Sharpe mentions was made to him, in order that he might spice his sermon so as more effectually to excite the soldiers to whom he was to preach it, against the Spaniards.

Don Pedro was, as we have seen, remitted by the Lords of the Council, at the instance of Sir Francis Drake, to the care of Richard Drake, to whose house at Esher the prisoners were taken, and resided there four years and a half, during which time an allowance was made of 4*l.* per week for their maintenance, and when, in 1593, de Valdez was exchanged for Sir Edward Winter, Richard Drake received 2,500*l.* as ransom. The exchange was effected by Captain Jonas Bodenham, who went over to Antwerp by the appointment of Richard Drake and the Privy Council. During the residence at Esher of de Valdez and his companions, they seem to have been much visited by a number of the nobility, to the great charge of Drake, as they "required entertainment."

Richard Drake continued in office as one of the Queen's Equeries up to his death, a year previous to which he seems to have brought to the notice of his Royal mistress that a sum of 3,151*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* was then owing to her, being the remains of 20,000*l.* which she had adventured in the voyage of Sir Francis, to the West Indies in 1585 and 1586; and further, that gold and silver had in 1588 been embezzled from ships of the Spanish navy (probably de Valdez's ship the "Capitana"), and still lay concealed. The Queen, for what consideration does not appear, issued her order to the officers of the Exchequer, granting to Richard Drake the balance stated to be due to Her Majesty, and the gold and silver to be recovered. Whether the grant was effective, and what benefit the grantee derived from it, does not appear.

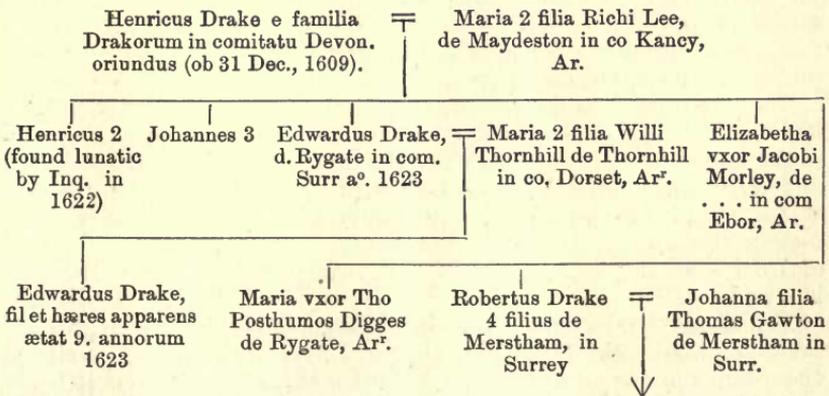
Richard Drake died 11th July, 1603, aged 68, having, as before stated, married Ursula, daughter of Sir William Stafford, of the Grafton branch of that family, who sur-

vived him, and by whom he had issue an only son, Francis Drake of Esher, who was one of the band of Gentlemen Pensioners which at that period formed a distinguished branch of the Royal household. This Francis Drake married three times, his first wife being Joan, daughter and coheir of William Tothill, one of the six clerks of the Court of Chancery, to whom he was married on 3rd March, 1602, at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, London, and by her had issue three sons; viz.—William Drake (afterwards Sir William Drake, Knt. and Bart., who died unmarried in 1669); Francis Drake, of Walton-on-Thames; John (who died unmarried in 1623), and one daughter, Joan.

After the death of his first wife, Francis Drake of Esher married secondly Philadelphia, daughter of Sir Edward Davey, by whom he had issue an only daughter, Mary Drake; thirdly, Jane, widow of the Rev. Josias White, of Hornchurch, Essex, who survived him, but by whom he had no children.

Francis Drake, the second son of Francis of Esher, and grandson of Richard Drake, was the third generation of the family who resided in Surrey.<sup>1</sup> He, like his father,

<sup>1</sup> There was another branch of the Devonshire DRAKES who resided in Surrey, and in reference to whom the following entry occurs in the Visitation for that county, taken in 1623. (*Ms. Coll. Arm.*, C. 2, p. 232.) The arms of this branch, as recorded by the Heralds, were "Argent, a wyvern gules."



[Signed] Tho. Posthumus Digges, for  
 my brother Edward Drake.

The above-mentioned Henry Drake was buried in Reigate Church,

married three times, his first wife being Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Alexander Denton, of Hillesden, co. Bucks, by whom he had no children. His second wife was Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Spring, of Pakenham, co. Suffolk, by whom he had issue (with two younger sons, Francis of Woodstock, co. Oxford, and John), Sir William Drake, Knt., M.P. for Amersham, who died in 1690, and was the ancestor of the present Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake, of Amersham and Shardeloes, co. Bucks.

Francis Drake resided at Walton-on-Thames, where he held property, including a farm called Oxshott, which his father had purchased, nor does he appear to have migrated to Buckinghamshire, where the other members of his branch of the Drake family settled. He is described as of Walton-on-Thames in a deed in my possession, to which he was a party, dated 10th December, 1641, and thirteen years afterwards (5th October, 1654) he was the justice of the peace before whom, at Walton, Lady Rachel

and in the above Visitation the inscription on his gravestone is given thus:—"Here lieth the body of Henry Drake, of Frenches, who married Mary Lea, the daur. of Richard Lea, of Maydeston, in the countie of Kent, Esq., by whom he had foure sonnes & two daughters, viz., Edward, Henry, John, & Robert, and Elizabeth that married James Morley, Esq., and Mary that married Thom's Posthumus Digges, Esq., he died the last of December, a<sup>o</sup>. 1609." Frenches is a capital mansion and manor in the hamlet of Wiggey, near Reigate. The arms on the stone were a quarterly coat of four:—1. Drake, Arg. a wyvern gules; 2. Lea, Arg. a fess gules between 3 leopards' heads, az.; 3. Conyers, Or, a maunche, sable; 4. Crispe, Or, on a chev. sable, 5 horseshoes or.

To these quarterings, however, the deceased does not appear to have had any right, certainly not as *quartered* with his own coat, inasmuch as the arms appertained to his *wife*, Mary Lee, daughter of Richard Lee, of Maidstone (descended from Sir Richard Lee, Knt., twice Lord Mayor of London, 1461 and 1470), and Elizabeth Crispe, of Thanet, who, besides Mrs. Drake, had issue three sons, one of whom, Richard Lee, of De lee Magna, is recorded in the Kentish Visitation for 1619, as having issue.

The Henry Drake who settled in Surrey appears, by the Inquisition taken on his death (20 Jas. I., 2nd pt. D, No. 30), to have purchased the estate and manor of Frenches, and other lands in and about Reigate, and Edward Drake was found to be his son and next heir, and to have been at the date of the Inquisition of the age of 24 years and upwards.

Wriothesley (afterwards so celebrated as Rachel<sup>1</sup> Lady Russell), was married to her first husband, Lord Vaughan.

The property in Surrey, of which Richard Drake died possessed, appears to have continued in the possession of his son Francis, who resided at Esher until his death in 1634, two years after which the property in that parish was sold, probably by his eldest son, Sir William Drake, who inherited the Buckinghamshire estate from his great-grandfather, William Tothill.

I regret that the shortness of time that has elapsed since the request of the Council of the Society was conveyed to me has prevented me from giving an account of the owners of the Lordship of Esher since its sale by Sir William Drake, but if it should be considered of sufficient interest, I shall hope to make a further communication on that subject.

<sup>1</sup> Lady Rachel's connection with the county of Surrey arose out of her father's (Thomas Wriothesley, fourth Earl of Southampton) second marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Francis Leigh, Baron Dunsmore and Earl of Chichester, the owner of the estate then and still called "Apps-Court," in the parish of Walton-on-Thames, to which property, on his father-in-law's death in December, 1653, Lord Southampton succeeded, and was there living with his family when his daughter Rachel was, in the following year, married, as above stated, to Lord Vaughan, the son and heir of Richard, Earl of Carbery, in Ireland.

OATLANDS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE,  
10th July, 1878.

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