



Thomas Scot, the Regicide.

By Lady Russell.

MANY and various descents have been assigned to Thomas Scot, the Regicide.

In the work entitled "The Compleat Collection of the Lives of those persons lately executed, by a person of quality. (W.S.)* London, 1661,† he is said to have been born in Buckingham of no noted family"; Lipscombe says "it is probable that he was descended from Thomas Scot, a Yorkshireman, who married Margaret, daughter of Robert Pakington (by Katharine, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Lord Chief Justice Baldwin) and widow of Benedict Lee, of Burston, Bucks"; whilst Burke in *Landed Gentry* under the head of "Scott of Carbrooke," says that Blomefield in his "*Hist. of Norfolk*," states that he was son of Thos. Scott, the elder of Watton, co. Norfolk, who left the Manor of Rockells in Watton, by will, in 1672, to his grandson Thos. Scott, son of the Regicide. On a careful examination of wills, visitations, etc., it seems clear, however, that the Regicide Thomas Scot was son of Thomas Scot of Chesterford, Essex, and of Cambridge and London, by his wife Mary Sutton,‡ grandson of Thomas Scot, by Ellen, daughter of William Bramstead (or Brumstead)§ of Cambridge; and great grandson of another Thomas Scot (see Visitation of Bucks, 1634, and Visitation of Essex, 1558).||

Further back than this we cannot (sic.) trace the Regicide with certainty, but there seems every probability that her family was a branch of the ancient family of Scot, of Scot's Hall, Kent. William Scott, a younger son of that illustrious family settled at Stapleford,

* "W.S." was Will Sheppard, a lawyer and a supporter of Cromwell.

† A re-print of "*Rebels no Saints*," published in 1660, with the Lives added.

‡ When Thomas Scot was instrumental in displacing Mr. Fourness, the Vicar of Great Marlow, one Daniel Sutton was "intruded" there in his place, not unlikely a relation.

§ I have failed to find any mention anywhere of the name of "Brumstead" or "Bramstead" excepting in the *Journal of Lord Clarendon*, who mentions Mr. Bromstead and his wife dining with him at Swallowfield in 1688.

|| There is palpably an error in the date of this last visitation and 1558 should be 1668.

Tawney, Essex, and died in 1494. He married Margery, daughter and heiress of Thomas Swinborne, of Yorks, and their son John Scott married Margaret Drax, and in the Visitation of Essex the arms of the Scotts of Essex, quartering Swinborne and Drax are attributed to the Regicide.*

Thomas Scot was educated at Westminster, under the Head Master Lambert Osbaldiston, with Sir Arthur Haslerig, Sir Harry Vane and other notorious anti-monarchists, and Ludlow in his memoirs, says that he went on to Cambridge.

As far as can be ascertained Thomas Scot's connection with Bucks was through his marriage in 1626 with Alice, daughter and heiress of William Allanson,† who had "messuages and lands at Great and Little Marlow," which he left him by will in 1633. The Regicide is described in Whitaker's "Leeds," (and also in a private Sykes MS.) as "of Westthorpe, co. Bucks,"‡ so no doubt this was one of the messuages left him by his father-in-law. The Regicide is said to have been an attorney or solicitor at Aylesbury, but he was also a partner in the breweries of his father-in-law at Bridewell Precinct and Stockwell Green. We find him continually called by his enemies "the brewer's clerk," and in some imaginary conversation published in 1660, entitled "The private debates, conspiracies and resolutions of the late R., imported to publick view," one "Leadsum,"§ says to Thomas Scot, "For Godsake, Master be not so dismayed but comply and keep your offices. Alas ! what will become of your poor servant else? I must be again confined to the narrow gains of bottle-ale."

In 1640 Scot was one of the trustees for the land in Aylesbury taken from Sir John Pakington by the Parliament for the use of the people. Three years later he was one of the Committee left at Great Marlow after the surrender of the town. In 1644 Thomas Scot married his second wife Grace, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas

* The arms also that are emblazoned on the monument to Scot's wife in Westminster Abbey are those of the Stapleford family.

† William Allanson, who is described as descended out of Yorks, was a citizen and salter of London. He left to the parishioners of Little Marlow £50, that 1s. might be laid out in bread every Sunday, and to the poor of Great Marlow £5, and he desired to be buried either in the Church of Little Marlow, where his first wife was buried, or at St. Michael's, Queenhithe.

‡ Westthorpe, Little Marlow, at the death of Scot passed into the hands of Sir John Borlase, Bart., it remained in his family till about 1803, when it was bought by Field Marshal Sir George Nugent, Bart., and it is now the property of Mr. Ellames.

§ We also find "Ledsum" called "one of Scot's bloodhounds." A Daniel Ledsham went in 1655 to Ireland as Secretary to Col. Harrison.

Manleverer, Bart. (by Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Wilbraham). She died in the following year, aged 23, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Upon a pillar adjoining the Chapel of St. Michael is a small monument erected to her memory, inscribed as follows :

"Grace, the eldest daughter to Sir Thomas Manleverer, of Allerton Manleverer, Yorks, Bart. Born in the year 1622, married unto Collonel Thomas Scot, a member of the honourable House of Commons, 1644, and died the 24th February, 1645."

Below is written :

"He that will give my Grace but what is hers,
Must say her death hath not
Made only her dear Scot
But virtue, worth and sweetness, widower's exterris."

Thos. Scot's alliance with Sir Thos. Manleverer seems to have still further advanced his Republican tendencies.

He abandoned the profession of the law and entered into the Parliamentary army as a Major.

In 1645, when a vacancy occurred in the Long Parliament for the borough of Aylesbury,* Thomas Scot and Simon Mayne were returned to represent it, and Whitelock tells us that Scot and Mr. Fountaine that same year "brought Col. Fleetwood, one of the new knights of Bucks, into the house with great triumph though the election was but yesterday."

Scot soon began to make himself disagreeable to Oliver Cromwell and continually opposed him. In 1647, at the celebrated Rendezvous at Ware, he with Lilburne was foremost in raising the mutiny. Lilburne was committed to the Tower, and Scot fell into the Marshal's custody at Ware. Three soldiers were condemned to death, but were given "the mercy of the dice," and the two whom the lot reprieved shot the third.† It seemed probable that Scot himself would lose his life for his share in the insubordination. In the petition of the Regiments of Fleetwood, Whalley and Barkstead to Fairfax, they ask that "inquisition he made for the blood of Col. Ramsborough and Scot," and the "Mercurius Melancholicus," for Nov. 1647, says "that Shuttle-cock Major Scot, the goodly Cabinet of Treason and Religion, is like to pay Scot and lot in a halter for all the good services he has done the State ; O may the heads of all such saints triumphant be so exalted." This exaltation, however, was destined to be deferred, and we find that Scot was very soon

* Ralph Verney and Sir John Pakington having been illegally expelled from the House in consequence of their loyalty to the King.

† See "Kingdom's Weekly Intelligencer."

discharged. Thomas Scot was one of those who advocated putting the King to death, and was only twice absent from the so-called High Court of Justice. He assisted in giving judgment and signed and sealed the warrant for the King's murder.*

He took a most prominent part in the affairs of the Commonwealth, constantly forming one of the executive body and several times was appointed one of the Council of State. His emoluments from his offices, etc., must have been very considerable; he purchased the Archbishop's Palace at Lambeth for the sum of £7073 os. 8d. conjointly with Matthew Hardy. They did not agree as to their division of it, and presented a petition to Parliament, which was referred to a Committee in November, 1648. Scot ultimately becoming possessed of that part which contains the Chapel, demolished its beautiful windows and, it is said, made his dining-room at the East end. Furthermore it is said, that he broke open Archbishop Parker's tomb, sold the leaden coffin and cast his bones into an outhouse. In the *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, however, this is stated to have been the act of Hardyng (Hardy). In the work already alluded to ("The Compleat Collection, etc."), it is said of Thomas Scot, "he acts in the nature of a Secretary of State, and is made the only person to manage the intelligence, as well foreign as domestick both publick and private, and thinks himself little other than a petty Prince, in which condition he continued till the year 1653. When Oliver Cromwell took the government upon himself Scot did nothing observable, but that government ceasing and Richard Cromwell being settled in the scornful seat of his father, Mr. Scot begins to show himself and was a very active instrument in dethroning that foolish pretender, and a Chief Counsellor at Wallingford House, with Lambert, Fleetwood, etc., for the establishment of the Rump Parliament."

Richard Cromwell would not let Scot take his seat in the House until he signed an engagement not to disturb his government, to which he reluctantly submitted. One of the witnesses against Scot at his trial gave evidence that he had heard Scot say whilst Richard's Parliament was sitting, "I have cut off one tyrant's head and I hope to cut off another."

(To be continued.)

* Fifty-nine signed the warrant, Scot's name is the fifty-sixth on the list.