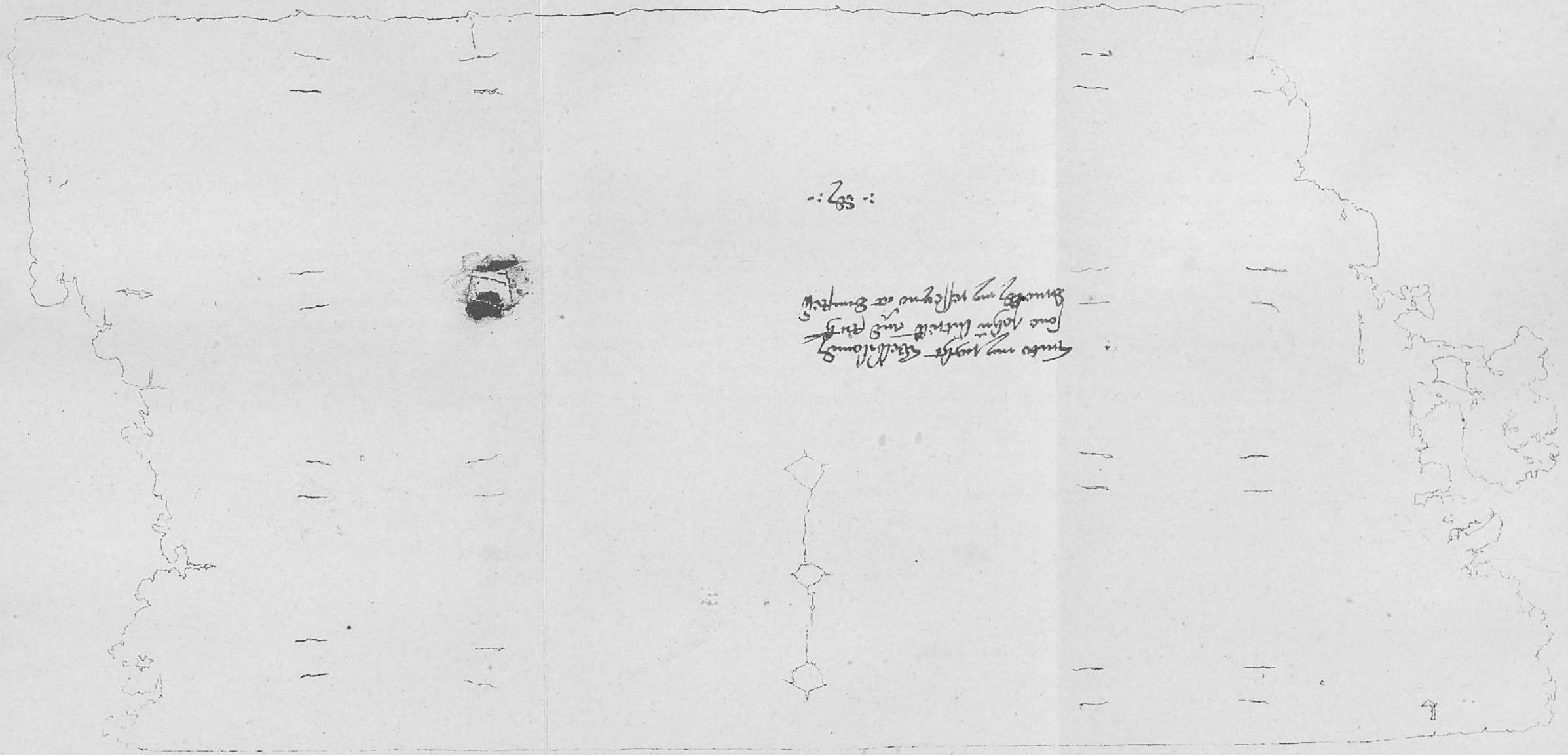
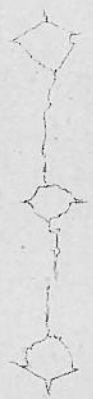


255

into my right
one John Little and
some my wife or some



I bidde you y grette godd welth with cures blessing and myn dore godd to write pat y am certefied pat nobylt knyghtpounde my
 all and comendement be myn lres pat philipot stronge is not returned to his godd wherof y merke me pat my comendement may
 not stonde but so eue pe be som men plene pe lord endure as long as per man for be pe grace of god sometime schall y and yane per
 do de parenture pe haddi do my comendement for yohanne per gmahe m so healt a yngt and considering ha cost hen nobylt
 vollyth per pforme not myn lres m grette mathe But what be the godd and not amoldy p is myn lres and with y
 be the grette what so my man say sai y agane and pat y haue no mede to that perfore no more and penketh pat yonketh by so
 on lre and be pe grace of godd schall come home and pat yaper yanne sammyr wold wherfor taketh alre godd with y
 mine be his othe on pe lre gif he haddi paid and what for pat cause to myn pssion and pue be him a gam and not do
 philipot his godd pe lre pssion pat he can ax at him and pat ge se this be don help of last dore fiendes y can ne
 but peholte smite hane godd m his lre And not amoldy p is schall be yonketh wogant upon yonketh accompte of pe pa
 senty at Haslen pe xijth daie of Octob^r

Xps dore fiendes y charge godd pat ge sende me m all godd harte fith suffisance
 for myn household and for ge haue m no mane wif

} godd fader hught lre
 } hught lord of dunstey and
 } Sir Gueffalt of normedie

Original Documents.

LETTER OF SIR HUGH LUTTRELL OF DUNSTER CASTLE, Kt. 7—8 HENRY V.

From the muniments of GEORGE F. LUTTRELL, Esq., of Dunster Castle.

THE letter, an excellent fac-simile of which, by Mr. Tupper, is prefixed to these remarks, owes its preservation to its having been annexed, as a voucher, to the Compotus roll of Thomas Hody, the seneschal or "Receptor generalis" of the Honour of Dunster for the 7—8 of Henry V., A.D. 1419—20, which is therefore its date. It is written lengthways upon one side of a "vessel" or half sheet of paper,¹ upon the back of which is the address or superscription, and a red stain, showing the place of the seal. This seal, though here broken away, is found perfect upon other papers of about the same date, and is, in some of them, referred to as the signet of Sir Hugh Luttrell. From one of these, a voucher of 1 Henry V., the appended woodcut by Mr. Utting has been copied. It represents a martlet, one of six which form charges on the Luttrell shield, and is thus used, by a not uncommon practice, instead of the larger crest or more complex coat of arms which appears upon the more formal documents of the family at that period.

The letter has been selected for publication because it is a good example of the style and character of the reign, and besides commemorates a Somersetshire worthy, who took part in the wars and councils of Henry the victor of Agincourt, and was the founder of the Dunster Castle branch of the ancient family of Luttrell. It also establishes the fact, heretofore unknown, of Sir Hugh Luttrell's having held the office of Grand Seneschal of Normandy.

It will be observed that the Saxon character representing "th" is still present, though this, as Mr. Burt informs me, is rather a late example of its use. Under the more modern form of a "y" it continued to be employed down to the reigns of Queen Anne and the early Georges.

The following transcript and translation may be found convenient:—

" wel bilovid sone y grete 3ow well wyth Cristes blessinge and myn Doing 3ow to wite þat y am certefied þat nowht wythstonde my . . . lle and comandement be my letteres þat Philipot Stronge is not restorid to his godis Whereof y merueille me þat my comandement may not stonde but what so evere þei be som men plaie þe lord endure as long as þei mai for bei þe grace of God sometime schall y and þanne þe wolde per aventure þei had do my comandement for whanne þei grucche in so litill a þinge and considering hit cost hen nowght no merve . . . þough þei performe not my wille in grettir materis But what betwene 3ow and

¹ In my early years and at the Charter House the half of an ordinary sheet of octavo or note paper was thus termed. The term is given by Pegge, and is found in Le-

mon's Dictionary. Forby gives it also in his East Anglian Vocabulary; it has been derived from *fasciola*, a little strip.

Rich' Arnold þis my lettere and wille y nde 3 . . . hit be executid
 What so ony man saie þer againe and þat y have no nede to write
 þerfore no more and þenketh þat þonkid be G on live and be þe
 grace of him schalle come home and þat raper þan sommen wolde
 Wherefore taketh afore 3ou Wille Parson and mine bi his othe
 on þe boke 3if he hadde paid and what for þat cause to my resseviour
 and paie hit him again and þat he del . . . to Philipot his godes þe leste
 peniworth þat he can axe at him and þat 3e se this be doon alþinges last
 dere frendes y con ne but þe holi Trinite have 3ow in his keping
 And Rich' Arnold þis schalle be 3owr warant upon 3owr accompte of þe
 pa Writen at Harfleuþe xvij^e daie of Octobre.

<p>"Also dere frendes y charge 3ow þat 3e sende me in all godeli haste fische suffusante for myn houshold and forget hit not in no maner wise</p>	}	<p>Your fader Hughe Lutrell Knight Lord of Dunsterr and Gret Seneschall of Normendie</p>
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"[Endorsed]

"Unto my right welbelovid sone Johan Lutrell and Rich' Arnold my
 resseyvo att Dunsterr

delivered"

TRANSLATION.

"[Right] well beloved son, I greet you well with Christ's blessing and mine. Doing you to wit that I am certified that notwithstanding my [wi]ll and commandment by my letters that Philipot Stronge is not restored to his goods. Whereof I marvel me that my commandment may not stand, but whatsoever they be some men play the Lord, endure as long as they may, for by the grace of God sometime shall I, and then they would peradventure they had done my commandment, for when they grudge in so little a thing and considering it cost them nothing, no marvel that] though they perform not my will in greater matters. But what between you and Richard Arnold this my letter and will i nd y it be executed whatsoever any man say there against, and that I have no nede to write. Therefore no more and think that thanked be God alive and by the grace of him shall come home, and that rather than some one would. Wherefore take before you Wille Parson and mine by his oath on the book if he had paid and what for that cause to my Receiver, and pay it him again, and that be del[ivered] to Philipot his goods the last pennyworth that he can ask at him, and that ye see this be done [in] all things. Last, dear friends I can ne but the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. And Richard Arnold this shall be your warrant upon your account of the pa Writen at Harfleur the eighteenth day of October.

<p>"Also dear friends I charge you that ye send me in all goodly haste fish sufficient for my household and forget it not in no manner wise.</p>	}	<p>Your father Hugh Lutrell, Knight, Lord of Dun- ster, and Great Seneschal of Normandy.</p>
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"[Endorsed]

"Unto my right well beloved son John Lutrell and Richard Arnold my
 Receiver at Dunster

delivered."

It would be premature, on this occasion, to attempt a description of the muniments whence this letter has been extracted. They embrace a very copious collection of papers and parchments preserved at Dunster Castle, and relating to the families of Mohun and Luttrell, lords of that honour and fortress from a very early period. Among them are charters, conveyances, law pleadings, inquisitions, leases, court rolls, and seneschals account rolls, for the most part in excellent preservation and good order, having been arranged and catalogued by the celebrated Prynne, who was relegated to Dunster Castle as a sort of prisoner by Cromwell, and thus showed his sense of the kind treatment he met with from the Luttrell of that day.

The letter is not in the handwriting of Sir Hugh, who probably was unequal to such an effort; but the words are no doubt his own, dictated through a secretary.

Sir Hugh Luttrell was the head of a branch of a considerable family reputed to have come in with the Conqueror, and whose chief seat for many centuries was at Irnham in Lincolnshire. They also held property in Notts and Derby, and occur in Leicestershire as benefactors to the Temple Preceptory of Rothley.

The Luttrells of Irnham were barons by tenure, from Geoffrey, in the reign of John, to Robert, fourth baron, who was summoned to parliament in 1295 and died in 1296. His son and descendants, though in the male line, were not summoned. The Luttrells, by marriage with the Paganel heiress, acquired the manor of East Quantocks Head in Somerset, and other lands in the west. Irnham continued in the elder line till its extinction in the reign of Henry V., but East Quantocks Head passed previously to a cadet branch. The main line of this branch also failed, and the manor passed again to a junior Luttrell of Chilton, co. Devon.

Sir Andrew Luttrell of Chilton married Elizabeth (omitted by Dugdale), the widow of Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and daughter of Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, by Margaret, daughter of Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford, whose mother was a daughter of Edward I. This lady, whose wealth was equal to her rank, purchased Dunster from the Mohuns in the reign of Edward III., and there finally established her son, Sir Hugh Luttrell, the first of Dunster, and the author of the present letter.

Sir Hugh was styled "Cousin of the King," and as such had, in 1391, 15 Richard II., an annuity of 40*l.* out of the alien priory of Wenge, Bucks. In 2 Henry IV. he was made Steward of the Queen's Household, and soon afterwards Constable of Bristol Castle and Warden of the forest of Kingswood. 3 Henry IV., 1401-2, he was Lieutenant of Calais. In December, 1403, being then a knight, he was at Calais both as lieutenant and as a member of an embassy to the Duke of Burgundy and the Flemish estates. With him were Sir John Croft, Nicholas de Rishton, and John Urban. Several of their letters to various potentates abroad and to the king at home are preserved, and have recently been printed. Those signed by Sir Hugh, extend only from 4 Dec., 1403, to 10 Jan., 1404, when he seems to have retired from the duty. [Royal and Histor. Letters, Henry IV., vol. i. p. 204.] He signs one letter as "Locum tenens Calisii." About this time also, 1403, 4 Henry IV., he and J. Luttrell, probably John, his son, were occupiers of Wenge Abbey. [Proc. of P. C., i. 194.]

25 April, 1404, he was a member of the Privy Council, and present at the discussion as to the marriage of the king's second daughter, Philippa, to Eric, king of Denmark, contracted in May, 1402. 13 May in the same year, having been recommended to the office by the Privy Council, "Mons. Hugh Luttrell" was named Mayor of Bourdeaux. [Proceed. of P. C., Hen. IV.. I. 223; and Carte's Gascon Rolls, I. 189.] 6 Hen. IV. he was a commissioner of array for Somerset to raise men to prevent the landing of the French in aid of the Welsh rebels. 11 Hen. IV., Mons. Hugh Luterell was one of five persons appointed for the county of Somerset "Pour cheavance fair de monoye al oeps du Roy et de son royaume l'an de son regne unzieme." [Proc. of P. C., I. 343.]

He was apparently in great request under the new reign. 16 Feb., 1 Hen. V., John Sewalle, messenger, was sent specially with a letter of privy seal to Sir Hugh concerning the escape of Sir John Oldcastle. [Issue Roll, 1 Hen. V., p. 331.] 3 Hen. V., August, 1415, he was with the king at Harfleur, and on its fall became councillor to the lieutenant thereof, whom he soon after succeeded in office. His name does not appear as present at Agincourt in October. 4 Hen. V. he agreed, in consideration of 286*l.*, to serve the king in the French wars in person for twelve months, together with twenty men at arms, one being a knight and the rest esquires, and sixty archers. All were to be ready at Southampton by the 4th of May. The Privy Council Records state that, 15 Feb., 1417, 4 Hen. V., Hugo Lut'ell was one of three persons from whom the king was to select a "Miles Constabularius" to accompany him on his voyage. [Proc. of P. C., II. 204, 232.]

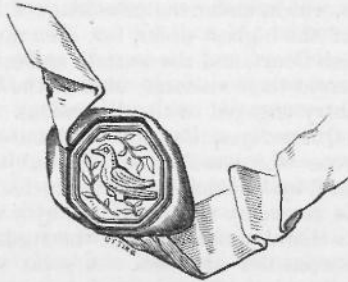
5 Hen. V., 1417-18, he was still abroad, and was appointed to treat for and accept the surrender of the town of Monstreville. The family accounts show that he was actively employed during the three following years, while at the same time the establishment was kept up at Dunster Castle, which he visited annually, and where his wife and his mother resided. 6 Hen. V., provisions to the value of 104*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* were purchased and sent to him at Harfleur, and 2*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* was paid for a pipe of wine for the ladies at home, whose expenses appear in the general house-keeping account. 7 Hen. V. he is styled Captain of Harfleur; and his accounts show that his route to that place lay through Domerham, Hampton or Southampton, Portsmouth, and sometimes Poole. Then, as in the 8 Hen. V., large quantities of stores, salt fish, salt flesh, oatmeal, wheat, candles, coals, horseshoes and horseshoe nails, and occasional sea stores, were purchased and sent to Harfleur; and on one occasion, Richard Arnold, his receiver, took 200 horses homewards from Hampton to Dunster.

At the coronation of the queen of Henry V., in Feb., 1421, Sir Hugh was appointed steward of her household. He is said to have been many times knight of the shire for Devon; for Somerset he was returned as Hugh Luttrell in 1404, and as Sir Hugh in 1414 and 1415. His latter days seem to have been spent at Dunster, where he enlarged the castle, and was celebrated for his hospitality. That he kept up favourable relations with the court appears from a letter addressed by Henry VI. to the Scottish king, in which, upon the complaint of Sir Hugh Luttrell, he requires satisfaction for the harbouring a Spanish ship which had captured one of Sir Hugh's fishing boats and abused the tenants of his port of Minehead. [Coll. H. of Som. II. 10; Lips. Bucks, III. 523.]

Sir Hugh probably died 6 Hen. VI., in which year the Escheat Roll describes as his property Stipelton, Crockeston, and Ham Moun manors held in co. Dorset of Dunster ; Wolston manor held of Otterton, rents in Shefehdighes and Byrches in Devon ; Feltwell manor, and a member of the Honour of Castleacre in Norfolk ; Stonhall and Woodhall manors in Suffolk ; and in Somerset the castle and burgh of Dunster, Carhampton manor and hundred, Mynhede and Culfeton manors, 95 acres in Hethfield Durburgh, the manor and church of Estantokyshed, and the manor of Sampford Arundel. [Cal. Inq. p.m. iv. p. 115.]

He married Katherine, daughter of Sir John Beaumont of Shirwell, co. Devon, and widow of Sir John Strecche of Devon ; who died 1 Henry VI. Katherine survived both husbands, and had dower of the estate of her second assigned 6 Hen. VI. in Mynehead and East Quantockshead. [*Ibid.* 470.] She probably died 14 Hen. VI., when the Escheat Roll shows her as seized of nearly the whole of the Luttrell estates in Somerset and Devon. [*Ibid.* 164.] Sir Hugh and Katherine had Sir John Luttrell and three daughters. Sir John appears in his father's accounts as a pensioner at 10*l.*, and as renting small portions of land. He probably died in 9 Hen. VI. The Norfolk property does not appear in his inquisition ; the Devon property is altered, and includes Chilton, an old family estate ; Dorset and Suffolk are unaltered ; Somerset slightly altered. [*Ibid.* 132.] Margaret his wife died 17 Hen. VI., having her dower in Somerset, Suffolk, and Devon.

G. T. C.



Signet of Sir Hugh Luttrell, appended to a voucher of an account 1 Henry V.