

NOTES ON A PIECE OF PAINTED GLASS WITHIN A GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE FAMILY OF STEWART.

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At the Monthly Meeting of 5th May, 1878, Mr. Hartshorne exhibited a piece of painted glass, which had been in his family for some years, and is of no small interest both historically and genealogically. Its size is not great, consisting of a central compartment, 9in. by 6½in., surrounded by a border, originally (as will be seen) 3in. wide, the base whereof has however been damaged, thus reducing the width in that part by exactly 1 inch. The design in the central compartment is singular.¹ A lion rampant contends with a warrior on foot, in chain mail and square-topped helmet of the thirteenth century. The warrior stands over a broken sword, and brandishes a ragged club. His shield, bearing the fesse chequy of the Stewarts, hangs from his neck. An arm reaching from the clouds holds a shield above the man and beast, shewing the Stewart coat, the fesse surmounted with an escutcheon, bearing a lion rampant, debriused with a ragged staff. The double tressure of Scotland surrounds the compartment. On the border is represented at the foot a warrior reclining, from whose chest a tree grows, running along the other three sides of the border, bearing small figures of warriors issuing from flowers, with their escutcheons and names. In a corner at the top is the date 1574. I felt much interested in this glass, as the subject is a remarkable one, and the singular design of the knight and the lion had come under my notice some years ago. In M. Michel's *Les Ecossais en France* (vol. i, p. 92 note) published in 1862, he gives a drawing of this very design, and the text of the asserted grant by Charles VI of France in the fifth year of his reign, conferring the strange coat of arms on Sir Alexander Stewart, on account of the merits of his father Andrew. The grant bears that Andrew Stuart had "by force of baton and sword driven out of the double tressure of Scotland the false and filthy usurper and coward lion of Balliol, and restored the Scottish crown to the true owner," the late King David. M. Michel says "it is enough to cast the eye on these pretended letters of concession, to recognise the patois of an Englishman little familiar with the language spoken at Paris at the end of the fourteenth century, and to doubt the fact asserted by the writer"—an opinion which will be shared by anyone moderately versed in old French. For the facts on which he grounds his opinion, M. Michel refers to a MS. vol. (*Addit. MSS.*, British Museum, No. 15644), which is a very singular production. It is a collection of transcripts by an Augustin Steward of Lakynheath in Suffolk from "Sondry ould Charters remayninge in my possession, Decimo An^o Regine Elizabeth 1567," so stated by him on fol. 1.

Some of them are very curious, and how he managed to collect the originals, it is difficult to imagine. A large part of the volume is occupied with a genealogy of the Stewarts, commencing with Banquho, and ending

¹ See the illustration p. 302 *ante*.

with Robert Steward of Ely, the maternal great-grandfather of Oliver Cromwell. I see that Mr. Tucker (*Rouge Croix*) says that the story is incidentally referred to in MSS. in the Herald's College. I should like to know if among these is the following, which is given verbatim, without contractions:—

"1520. To all present and to come that theis presents shall here or see Thomas Wriotheslye otherwise called Gartier King of Armes sendeth greting wheras Robert Steward of Elye Clarke son of Nicholas sonne of Richard sonne of Thomas sonne of Sir John Steward knight et ce. have instantly required me to delyver unto him a true note of the bering and quartering of tharmes of hys Ancestors. Know ye that for the better accomplishinge hereof, I have made serch in my Registers and have found indeed the same, long after the death of Sir John Steward knight surnamed Scotangle to have bene very diverslye by divers of that name borne and used. ffor some time thancestors of the said Robert ffor their first cote did bere in gould a fesse chekey of silver and azure being in truth proper to thir bloud and name quartered with a red lyoun offended of a ragged staff bendwise, laid with some [blank in MS.] namely Boreley Walkfare and Baskerville. Otherwhiles the said red lyon being but a mere reward yet [blank in MS.] honored with the titre of Charles the french kings guifte (?) ys for thir first and most renowned cot advanced having the said fesse chekey therewith and with others quartered. And againe sometime the said red lion is borne in an Ent (?) of silver. And in other places I find borne in an Ent (?) of gould upon the said fesse Chekey the said red lyon in an inschocheon of silver with sondry other differing maners off bering. All which varieties as well for brevities sake as for a playn declaracion therof, in fyne severall eschocheons even in such manner as I fynd them noted in my records I have in the margicall (*sic*) ffront of theis presents trulye depainted and set downe. And there I also find the ancient cognizance used with the armes to be a ragged staffe standing upon a broken sword crossed saltierwise. And in witnes of this I the said Gartier have signed with my hand and sealed with my Seale theis presents Att London the xiiij daye of September in the yere of our Lord Jesus Christ M. D. and XX. And in the yere of the raigne of King Henry the eight our redouted Soueraine Lord the Twelft.

"Th. W. gartier roy darmes danglois."

If this is a genuine grant, the story of the lion fight, though not expressly mentioned there, may be of considerable antiquity. But the Stewart Pedigrees, given in the MS., in Mark Noble's *Memoirs of the House of Cromwell* (Birmingham 1787), vol ii, p. 192, and in the same author's *Genealogy of the Stewarts*, London, 1795, are all erroneous in the steps connecting these Norfolk and Ely Stewarts with those of Scotland. The "Sir Alexander the Fierce," as the MS. and Noble call him, who killed a lion with a stick (*sic*), in the presence of Charles VI, is an entirely fictitious personage, and must (if he had lived) have been contemporary with his son Sir John, who flourished precisely at that era from 1380 to 1422, having accompanied James I, when made a prisoner by Henry IV, and then remained in England. This Sir John, from his English proclivities, seems to have been known by the sobriquet of "Scot-Angle." Both he and his son, another Sir John, appear, from evidence preserved in the MS., to have served in the French wars. The

son was doubtless the Sir John Steward who acted as "Sewer" at the coronation of Queen Catherine; for in his will, dated 20th May, 1447, he leaves to his aunt a gilt cup which the Queen gave him "on her coronation day." From them the descent of the Ely Stewards seems clear enough; and no doubt the first Sir John was a cadet of the Scottish Stewarts. Lord Hailes, in his *Annals* (an. 1333), observes that James Stewart of Rosyth, co. Fife, was the ancestor of Oliver Cromwell. But the steps of the descent are apparently unknown, and are certainly not those given by Noble and the MS.

Returning to the heraldic glass which has originated this note, it is an authentic and highly interesting piece of antiquity, and undoubtedly the same which may have attracted the eyes of the future Protector in the house of his grandfather at Ely. It is thus referred to by Noble:—"William Steward, also of Ely, was son of Nicolas, and enjoyed leases of church lands there. Had his descent represented in glass. In the middle compartment (9in. by 6½in.) is painted Sir Alexander Steward in armour, standing with a knotted or ragged staff or club, in the action of striking a rampant lion, his paternal shield appended on his breast. Another coat, with addition of arg. a lion rampant gules, over all, a bend reguled or, placed on the fess, is held out to him from the clouds by a dexter arm, clothed with the French arms; in the back ground a town and castle; the whole enclosed in a border about 3in. wide, which gives Banquho, the Patriarch of the family, sitting on the ground. (Here follows the description of the tree, coming out of his body, and names of successive descendants as on the glass) with date 1574 above. This invaluable painting upon glass (says Noble) is now possessed by my most obliging friend, the Revd. Robert Masters, F.A.S." (This gentleman gave the glass to Mr. Hartshorne's grandfather, so its pedigree is fully vouched).

If the French king's grant is genuine, the lion fight was not even intended to be an actual, but symbolical one. The lion borne by Balliol as representing the ancient Lords of Galloway, being the animal put to flight by (the asserted) Sir Alexander Stewart. Whatever its origin, the story is a very curious one. The MS. seems to contain evidence that Augustin Steward concocted or discovered the French king's grant. In the 6th of Elizabeth he procured from William Harvie (Clarencieux), on the strength of "some old writings," a confirmation of the debriused lion (MS., fol. 70). But in the 15th of Elizabeth he produced an "Auncient Instrument or Charter made by Charles the French Kinge," to the then Clarencieux, "Robert Cooke Esquyer," which officer, dazzled by its magniloquence, conferred the combatant knight and lion on Augustin Steward as an honourable augmentation that its "worthynes and antiquitie may be preserved in memorie and come to the knowledge of his posteritye," the worthy Herald adding, "that the manifestacion of trewth is a vertuous and laudable thyng, to the settinge forth and avauncement whereof all men are of dutie bounde" (MS., fol. 73). The blazon is there neatly executed in colours on the margin. One would almost be inclined to think the device had been borrowed from the remarkable, and hitherto supposed unique seal of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, Constable of Scotland, who is represented on foot, fighting with a rampant lion. (Laing's *Scottish Seals*).

¹ *Memoirs of the Cromwells*, sup. cit.