

ART. XXXIV.—*William George Browne of Orthwaite or Allerthwaite Hall.* By WILLIAM BROWNE of Tallentire Hall.

*Read at that place October 6th, 1882.*

WILLIAM GEORGE BROWNE, commonly known as “the traveller,” was the eldest son of George, who was the eldest son of William Browne of Orthwaite or Allerthwaite Hall, of the old family of Brownes of Wood Hall, near Heskett-new-Market, in the parish of Caldbeck. He was for some years the owner of this place.

In these days to give that title of traveller to any man sounds absurd. But we must fancy ourselves to be living here in times when the periodical visits of the carrier were the only means of communication between one place and another, and when people made their wills in anticipation of the dangers of any long journey.

I produced yesterday evening a volume, published in 1799, of his first travels in Africa, Egypt, and Syria, from 1792 to 1798.\* I now produce a seal of his, with William Browne in Arabic letters engraved on it, and the date 1226 A.H. I also produce a power of attorney, signed by him before again leaving England; and also a letter from Sir Joseph Banks to my father proving his death. That letter contains an extract from one which Sir Joseph had received from Mr. James Morier the secretary of the Persian Embassy, giving a detailed account of the discovery of Brown’s mangled body. Subsequent inquiries proved that he was murdered by orders from the Persian government, from an unfounded suspicion that he was upon a mission into Tartary injurious to the Persian

\* Travels in Africa, Egypt, and Syria from the year 1792 to 1798, by W. G. Browne. London: Published for T. Cadell, Junior, and W. Davies, Strand; and T. N. Longman and G. Rees, Paternoster Row, 1799. Quarto.

interests,

interests. This letter and a power of attorney, given by Mr. Browne the traveller to my father and the then Mr. Spedding of Mirehouse, are the chief documents I now have in my possession.

The power of attorney speaks for itself. It is dated July 18th, 1812. He calls himself William George Browne of John Street, Adelphi, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, "about to quit this kingdom" and to be "absent for some term." His intentions were to explore Tartary and Bochara.

It gives my father and Mr. Spedding absolute power to hold his estates, and to do everything which he himself might do for their management during his absence. But in little more than a year after this date, *i.e.*, on the 20th of August, 1883, Mr. James Morier writes from Tabriz :—

On the fourth day's march from the camp, after crossing the Kissil Ozan river, he was stopped by ten horsemen who first blindfolded his eyes, as well as those of his servants, tied their hands behind their backs, and conducted them to some distance off the road. There they kept them concealed until night, when they released the servants but carried poor Browne away with them. It was long before we were assured of what had been his fate; until, about a fortnight ago, his body, wrapt in his Turkish clothes, was found in a mangled state.

Mr. James Morier, who was not then aware of the extent to which the Persian government were implicated, concludes :—

With the villainous rabble that composes the royal camp, this unfortunate accident cannot create surprise. But to those who knew the virtues and estimable qualities of the deceased it cannot fail to reduce the most heartfelt grief and regret.