

ART. IV. *Strickland of Sizergh.* By E. BELLASIS, Lancaster Herald.

Read at Sizergh, July 11th, 1888.

I HAVE been asked to say something about the history of the family so long and honourably identified with the very interesting seat we are visiting to-day, and I do so, although aware of my inability to do justice to the theme. I accede to the request made to me because I apprehend that the heralds may not have treated these Stricklands well; albeit it may be the other way about, and that the Stricklands have not treated the heralds well. In his MS. summary of Sizergh muniments to the number of some 550, brought down to the year 1728, undertaken for Cecilia Towneley who married in the last century two Stricklands, cousins, West, author of the *Antiquities of Furness*, to whom I am much indebted throughout this paper, observes:—

There is not a family in this county, and but few elsewhere, that I have any knowledge of, who have so many valuable and honourable writings to show, a sure testimony to the dignity, spirit, and antiquity of the Strickland family.

Yet, strange to tell, the heralds' Visitations, undertaken for the express purpose of recording pedigrees and arms, had next to nothing to say about the Stricklands of Sizergh. Now what were those heralds at? Are we to suppose them at some "Strickland Arms," down the road there, unable to get anything out of the squire up here? Tong coming into Yorkshire and the North in 1530, and St. George going about Westmorland in 1615, have naught to report. Harvey, in 1552, and Flower in 1563, say little, but then, they were not bound to report anything. They went out of their way in tricking to one "Sir
Walter

Walter Strykelande," sable three escallops argent, quartering a fess dancette argent between six billets sable. Nothing more did they do. Then Dugdale was over here in 1664, for the last Westmorland Visitation (as it turned out). How did that big gun go off? There was hardly a shot from him. He called on Mr. Bellingham at Levens Hall hard by, and further contented himself with visiting—Sizergh Hall? Not a bit of it, (so far as I know,) but Kendal church instead; noting therein escallops and billets, a Nevill coat and an infant's epitaph, in the window and on the floor of Sir Thomas Strickland's choir. Such was the large contribution furnished by the author of the *Monasticon* in 1664 to the annals of Sigaritherge. And to crown the sad tale of neglected duty, the crest of the full topped holly bush or tree proper got no official recognition of any kind from the College of Arms, until the year 1807, when Heard and Bigland took compassion upon it. What did it all mean? Well might Nicolson and Burn remark:—"It is somewhat extraordinary that amongst the pedigrees of almost all the other ancient families in this county, we have met with no satisfactory account of this family." Mr. Chancellor, I wish to do my little best towards putting matters straight. On the theory of being responsible for the omissions of persons who died long before I was born, I am desirous, although some centuries behind the time, to make what amends I can. To this end accordingly I beg to hand in to you a Strickland pedigree, compiled by me, from 1228 to 1888, bristling with more and more dates the lower we clamber down a venerable ancestral tree, and ungallantly including the advanced ages of many ladies, because learned, and still more, legal gentlemen, like your worshipful self, are wont to expect and entitled to receive the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, with awful penalties in case of non-receipt. Further appendices upon the heraldry here, and upon the proofs for Strickland and Deincourt may in due course be handed to you for the society's

society's acceptance, should you, as vigilant and capable editor of our admittedly valuable *Transactions*, deem them worthy of attention.

Now that aged tower yonder, should of itself have sufficed to indicate some story to Sir William Dugdale which no survey of Westmorland gentry worthy of the name could afford to leave untold. Yet, remember this, old Sir John Towneley would have no note taken of himself, letting out to Tong as a reason (if he has been rightly interpreted) that he had a notion running in his head that he was about the only gentleman left in Lancashire, though what that had to do with not recording at once so valuable because so unique a specimen of gentility I am at a loss to determine. Sir John showed himself a gentleman by his generosity to the extent of two shillings most of which went to a guide, while the herald himself, after riding in the wild country in vain trying to bring Sir John to a more reasonable frame of mind, had to give over, (as Tong narrates) after as evil a journey as ever he had. Tong complains, too, of Sir Richard Hoghton that "he gave me nothing, nor made me no good cheer, but gave me proud words." Perhaps, then, like these gentlemen, the Squires Strickland of their day, may have wanted none of your chiefs taking notes among them in this place. They may have objected to paying anybody for getting recorded elsewhere down south, what they knew all about up north. Moreover, people who were being everlastingly fined for the atrocious crime of remaining conscientious Roman Catholics all their lives, would really have little spare cash for the amusement of pedigree. It were a mockery for the law to be bothering about the descents of parties whom the law was unconsciously trying its little or big best to improve off the face of creation. It would be additional cruelty to enforce disbursements over billets and cockle-shells, while imprisonment and death

death were the sterner realities of the hour. Then, lastly, the Stuart period witnessed to a waning in the influence and importance of the heralds. Thus if some few of the best families were not registered, this need not imply any neglect of duty on the part of a Norroy, a Richmond, or a Rouge Dragon. One herald narrates of a squire, that "he would not be spoken with." The squire was occasionally either out, or technically "not at home," while peeping through the lattice all the while the tabarded folk were calling. It was all very well, too, in tough Tudor times, when liberty hung its head, or was itself suspended at Tyburn on daring to exhibit its face abroad for innocent king, herald, or pursuivant to come down here to investigate about people's progenitors and offspring, since for them to be knowing herein and in coat armour was their trade and profession; and a Royal Commission to enquire meant then, your having to furnish the information, at least, if you were a wise man, not anxious to be gibbeted as *ignobilis*. But in the later Stuart period, the officers of arms had to encounter a spirit of independence, which, as it had made things very awkward indeed for Charles the First's head, so (in its slighter manifestations) would behave ill towards Garter and his henchman. These last now often met with a stubborn old Britisher who would respond to an intrusion upon his privacy by an attitude which implied quite as much as this:—

Every Englishman's house is his castle. What is it to you, worn-out relic of a bye-gone superstition, and of an exploded fad, who my grandmother happens to be? That rests with me now; it is my little affair entirely, and no longer your monopoly to record. Oblige me by minding your own business, if indeed you've got any business left to manage.

Although then for one reason or another, the Stricklands of Sizergh, until about a century ago, have had slight

slight notice at Heralds' College, the fact remains that they were by no means of yesterday, even in ancient Tong or Glover's times. Owing to periods of disturbance in the national life, and to removals from place to place, it is believed that a small multitude of earlier Strickland documents, contemporary with those of Deincourt still remaining, must have been lost or destroyed, but enough remains to prove that this family occupied a position of considerable importance in Westmorland so far back as the reign of King Henry III.

I read in Bain's Calendar of Scottish Documents, at the London Record Office, (published in 1881, and extending so far to 4 volumes) that Walter de Stirkland was a justice at Appleby in 1228, with directions to hold there an assize on cases of larceny and felony, in which one John Scotus (lodged in the King's prison) is the approver. Two years later, (as was better known) Walter, apparently, son of an Adam Stirkland (from a seal of green wax with a mullet or cinquefoil affixed to the earliest Strickland original or duplicate deed here) gave some acres of land in Great Strickland to St. Mary's, York; and the prior and monks of its cell Wetherall, were doubtless very thankful to see this early benefaction confirmed to them by the Sir William de Stirkland who rejoiced genealogists by calling the original grantor his great grandfather. To this Sir Walter succeeded generations of knights and esquires (usually the former) of power in this land, whether by reason of goodly estate, energy in affairs and excellent alliances. And speaking of these last, let me take this opportunity of merely mentioning their surnames in the main line down to the first owner of this house, exactly as we see it now. It is not a polite mode of noticing ladies; in fact, it is rather the way we address butlers, and housekeepers, but even such bare enumeration will be suggestive. It will also have the advantage of brevity, which, in the time at my disposal, is an important

portant consideration. It will leave out Ros, Middleton, Grimston, Holker, Webb, Fermor, Wright, Blount, Bel-lasis, Mannock, Stafford, Hungate, and Fleming. It will include possibly Fitzreinfrid, probably Goldington, and certainly Deincourt, Wells, Lathom, Olney, Bethom, Croft, Parr, Byron, Salkeld, Pennington, Cholmley, Gascoigne, Redman, Nevill, Brough, Knyvett, Darcy, Hammerston, Tempest, Place, Boynton, Curwen, Alford, Moseley, Dawnay, Trentham, Seymour, Salvin, Scrope, Towneley, Lawson, and Gerard. The Stricklands would seem, so far as we know, to have come to Sizergh at the period of the match with Elizabeth Deincourt about 1239. She is apparently the heiress of a race whose few muniments still preserved here, mentioning Sizergh, can be approximately assigned dates, between the reign of King Stephen and that of Edward I. These show possessions within the Kendal Barony holden by Stricklands, of the Lancasters, Fitzreinfrids, Marischalls, and Furnesses. The Stricklands alone remain now, and the presence of Mr. Strickland amongst us here to-day reminds me that a 7th century since they came is running to its death without seeing them run out: there are no signs either of another people stepping in here to take vacant places. Herein how striking a contrast does this place not afford to Levens Hall, Sizergh's beautiful rival two miles off, which has had to acknowledge for masters the owners of various surnames more than I can for the moment count.

Sir Walter de Stirkland's son and heir was a hostage from Gilbert Fitz Renfrid to King John. I have been unable as yet to verify for myself the statement put into print about Sir Walter de Stirkland's alleged wife, Cristina Fitzreinfrid, and of her obtaining from Roger her father the manor of Great Strickland for dower. The name Stirkland as you are aware, means the pas-ture land of the young cattle or *stirks* and I imagine that this family must have originally come from the district
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between the county town and Shap fells. They are of Stirkland which locality may have been so called from this family. The manor of Great Stirkland, or Strickland, belonged, we know, in 1239 to Sir Robert de Stirkland for in that year he settles it on his son William and upon Elizabeth Deincourt in fee-tail. Then, too, Robert's father, Sir Walter had a licence (of which Nicolson and Burn give the full text though I have not discovered a copy of it here,) enabling him to keep a domestic chaplain at Morland. This indicates a residence in those parts. But their connection with the East ward declined as surely as that with the West strengthened, and William de Stirkland is found releasing his manor of Sizergh to his son Walter at Kirkby Kendal, on Trinity Sunday, 1292. Walter was at the siege of Carlaverock (1300), and got a Royal charter of free warren in Helsington and Heversham for his services to Edward I in Scotland (1307). What these services were, the new Scotch calendar referred to, throws some fresh light upon, it appearing that the King (in 1303), intending to be at Roxburgh in five weeks after Easter, so as to set out against the Scottish rebels, commands that a thousand men from Westmorland and Kendal, under Walter Stirkland and another, shall muster at Appleby, on St. John Lateran's feast, in readiness to march the next day. Such royal favour as was shown the father was not denied to the son, and Sir Thomas de Stirkland "the beloved and faithful," receives from Edward III. a charter empowering him to enclose 300 acres of wood and land in Helsington, Levens and Hackthorpe, for good service effected by him in France. Again, Sir Thomas' grand-son, Sir Thomas, as King's standard-bearer, bears at Agincourt the banner of St. George, patron of merry England. In 1424, he petitions Henry VI as a "poor esquire;" asks his grace to consider suppliant's long services to the late King beyond the seas from the arrival at Harfleur, to the taking

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taking of Rouen city; declares that he has had no reward, and no wages of any kind saving for half a year; moreover, that he is arrears with the Exchequer to the tune of £14 14s. 10d. over divers broken vessels of silver put to him in pledge by Henry V, an early example of regal pawnbroking. He hopes, therefore, that it will please his Grace, in reverence of God, as an act of charity, and for the sake of his deceased Majesty's soul to grant suppliant the said £14 14s. 10d. The Exchequer Treasurer answers by wiping the sum off. It is this same Thomas who embarks in haste at Sandwich (1430) to attend with the Court in solemn state, at the coronation of his young King in Paris, and makes his Will before sailing, confiding his temporal concerns to his loving wife Mabel de Bethom. He is mindful of spiritual affairs also. He orders payment to be made in case of his death, for a priest who shall say Mass for his soul, and his ancestor's souls, during the space of three years, at St. Katharine's altar in Kendal Church. Moved, as his Holiness states, by their devotion to himself and the Roman Church, Pope Eugenius the IVth, grants to him and Mabel (1431) a licence (still extant here), to possess a portable altar (also still here) to take with them whithersoever they go, for holy Mass and other divine offices. And certainly, looking back as we now can, and seeing in this place the only old Catholic family left in Westmorland, out of the wreck of historic names, once, but no longer flourishing here, names nearly all gone into utter darkness, so far as this world's light is concerned, and surveying that grant of Crosscrake chapel, founded and endowed by Elizabeth Deincourt's connection, Anselm de Furness (1295) to the priory and convent of Cartmel, with its chaplain to be provided for celebrating Mass for the souls of founders and successors, I conceive of these Stricklands, staunch Papists all along, as being worthy of special favours at the hands of the See of Rome.

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During the Wars of the Roses the Stricklands do not appear to have suffered by espousing either interest. Walter concludes an agreement to serve Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, both in peace and war, and slays Henry Talbot, a notorious traitor. He gives up the 1,000 marks that he got for this deed to the King, but the latter does not turn stingy, and makes him Master of the Harriers, Keeper of Calgarth, (with right to fishing in Windermere), and Receiver in the Kendal Barony. From a general pardon for all treasons, in Edward IVth's reign, Walter would seem, later on, to have quitted Lord Salisbury and to have followed the fortunes of the House of Lancaster. He had, at this time, 280 servants and tenants capable of bearing arms. Walter's great-grandfather Thomas, received a commission (1537) from Henry VIII. to help Sir Thomas Wharton, Deputy Warden of the West Marches, and Thomas Wentworth, Captain of Carlisle city and castle, to keep peace on the border. Through his mother Katherine Nevill, let me add, he acquired the important Yorkshire estate of Thornton Bridge. He was contracted in marriage (1530) to Margaret, daughter of Sir Stephen Hammerston. At this time the family lived in the tower, and there is a lumber-room on the third floor, known as Madame Hammerston's room. Every respectable family seems to like the possession of a ghost, at least so long as it does not become too troublesome of a night. Mysterious rumours reach me as to this room being haunted, since here Mistress Hammerston met her fate, was murdered, and so on. The ghostly theory (albeit misty, as it ought to be,) has thus much in its favour, that were it a sham, that is to say a substantial burglar in the concrete, and it not the poetical abstraction that tradition loves so well, would surely never have been content up there so long doing no good business whatever. It would have seized occasion for dives into the excellent cellar and plentiful larder below,

below, but with a watch-dog at its heels. Walter's wife, Alice Tempest, (subsequently Lady Place, and then Lady Boynton) has left her mark here. Zealous in her duty towards all her children by different husbands, the records set forth, as West observes, "the integrity of her conduct, and the uprightness of her heart." By a 1573 indenture over the timber, lead, iron, stone, glass, and wainscot at Sizergh, she appears as reserving to herself at Walter's decease, the right of making repairs here, and of continuing such as Walter has left uncompleted. If Walter built all the house outside the tower, or one wing and part of the opposite wing, with other alterations, and if he placed Queen Elizabeth's arms in what is called the Queen's room, it is Alice who is thought to have been concerned as skilful carver on chairs and forms about the chapel and elsewhere, in the noble wood-work (1564-1567) in the Queen's room, and Drawing room alongside of it in the bosom of the tower, in the exquisite inlaid room above, in the dining room here below, and in the Boynton room overhead. The heraldry there celebrates Alice and her third husband, Sir Thomas Boynton and gives his quarterings of Rossall, Atsea (or De la See) Barmston and Spencer. You may see all this again on his monument at Barmston in Yorkshire, or most of it at Heversham church. Alice Tempest bears, at Sizergh, her own coat quartering Darcy. The opposite room, once called the Sherburne room, is equally effective. Mr. Strickland himself has had it cleverly done from old wood lying about idle, this room never having been finished. It is now called the Bindloss room, from the heraldry above the fireplace brought over some years ago from Borwick Hall, the part of the Standish property that came to the present squire's father. These rooms give a glimpse of what Sizergh must have been like inside, in good Mistress Alice's time, before destroyers had built this new central section,
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only 100 years old. Great indeed have been the changes under a later and no less energetic lady than Alice, Mrs. Cecilia Strickland, already spoken of, yet if you come up to the tower from the south-east, an aspect of Sizergh's simple majesty and solid strength is still afforded you. If you approach it from the north-east, a more picturesque and varied aspect of the castle is presented to you. Nor will either view once seen quickly pass from the memory of any true lover of the beautiful, and of the grand in the ancient architecture of an English home.

But to return. Alice's son, Sir Thomas was made Knight of the Bath at James the Ist's coronation, and this after getting a general pardon the day the so-called "good Queen Bess" expired in 1603. What he had done before this year of a treasonable complexion, what he did of note afterwards, beyond serving (1605) on a Commission with the Bishops of Carlisle and Chester and others to enquire into Cumberland and Westmorland charity lands, we need not stop to enquire. We have the testimony of his grandson, that he was an accomplished man but addicted to gambling, whereby the family estate became somewhat burdened. His wife, Margaret Curwen, was also in trouble, her offence being similar to that of every Strickland of Sizergh—she would be a Catholic. Adhesion to the old faith meant prison for at least one Blenkinsop of Helbeck. It signified fine for more than one Strickland of Sizergh; and a worry and a harass conveniently accounted for by a succinct term, recusancy. In 1629, Margaret's son, Sir Robert Strickland, sends her a letter of advice as to how she is to proceed with the Commissioners before the President at York, so as to save her estate from sequestration. He recommends a total suppression of his own name, and that she should consult, above all others, Sir John Lowther, counsellor-at-law, a particular friend of
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the family. A curious letter, which, as West observes, "marks the intolerant spirit of those worst of times."

Sir Thomas, K.B., if improvident, at least showed himself tenacious of his rights. The Bellinghams, who had come into Westmorland in Edward the II's reign owned, by Queen Elizabeth's time, much property here. The Kendal barony had become divided, and the feudal chain broken up, yet this family, then seated at Levens, claimed larger rights than the Sizergh folk were disposed to allow them. Arbitrators were accordingly appointed to accommodate Thomas Strickland and James Bellingham, and apropos of the Sizergh tenure, we learn that "Mr. Bellingham pretends it to be holden of him by knight service and two shillings rent, whereas Mr. Strickland denies both." Mr. Bellingham's father, Allan, had purchased from Henry VIIIth for £137 10s. the manor of Helsington, and this was likewise fruitful of dispute with the Stricklands, such as could only be decided in Chancery by a reference to the family writings. Further, Allan had purchased all the royalties, valued at the tenth of a knight's fee, and some of Mr. Strickland's tenants' privileges were thereby in contention for a while, and this despite the Deincourt grants from the Kendal Barony, and notwithstanding William de Thwenge's concessions, including those where he only reserves for himself a salvo of free chase. Nor must I pass over the curious memorandum of conference between Thomas Strickland of Sizergh, and William Strickland of Boynton, Yorkshire, in 1598. The latter would seem to have had the temerity to assume the Sizergh line to be sprung from the Boynton line. That was more than Sizergh's flesh and blood was disposed to stand, and Master William is made to retract his assumption, and to give up, here in the very presence of his own daughter, a claim to Whinfell manor.

Sir Thomas' son, Colonel Sir Robert Strickland, Deputy Lieutenant to Strafford in the North Riding, commanded

manded at Edgehill, a troop of horse, his son Sir Thomas leading a regiment of foot. And thus identified with the Royal cause, Sir Robert must have had great interest to secure that safe conduct, signed in 1644 by Lords Leven, Manchester, and Fairfax, parliamentary generals, which enabled him and his family to depart from York with protection for their house and property from plunder and confiscation. The first notice at Sizergh of his celebrated son, Sir Thomas, occurs in a commission from the King (1642) to command the company of 114 train-band soldiers, who were later on, I think, at Edgehill. West thought that Sir Thomas must have been knighted on the field as banneret at Marston Moor, since in the first writings after that event, he is styled a knight, but, while later on, his father and grandfather's knighthoods are recognized by Oliver Cromwell, his own is not, which favours this supposition. Mr. Gairdner's account of the civil war, now slowly issuing, may throw much more light on these and other Strickland matters.

Sir Thomas seems to have obtained small recognition at the Restoration for his faithfulness as a cavalier, and one boon only, of fluctuating worth, *i.e.* a lease in 1670 for 21 years of all duties on importations of foreign salt into England, at a rental of £1,000 per annum, the clear profits on which, over and above this sum, so varied from £300 a year to next to naught, that in 1679, he prays relief of the Exchequer, and Thornton-Bridge becomes security for the rent (1682). Admiral Sir Roger Strickland, his cousin then takes up the lease by a re-grant. He purchases also, of Sir Thomas, as I gather, Thornton-Bridge, worth some £7,000, which, continuing to be the security for the duties, becomes ultimately lost to the unfortunate Stricklands, because of Sir Roger's fidelity to the Stuart cause, and has since been farmed, I believe, by the Crown. *Sic transit gloria mundi*,—or rather of Thornton-Bridge. Such was that fatal boon, hanging heavy

heavy as lead round the necks of subjects so faithful to the two monarchs who, upon their servants asking for bread, had given them a stone.

I observe that our President, in his interesting book on *Cumberland and Westmorland M.P.s*, marries Sir Thomas Strickland to a Pennington. Sir Thomas' great-great-grandmother, and his grandson's second wife, are the only Penningtons that I know of connected with him. His first wife was Jane Moseley, (Lady Dawney) whose touching letters to her second husband show how she mourned his absence from Sizergh, far away in the cold and unsympathetic atmosphere of the London Court and Parliament "My dearest harte," she writes,

I receved thy most kind Leter dated the 17 for which I give thee many thanks, it shows both great love to me and mine. I wish we may be able to dissearve it . . . I besech all mighty God to requite all thy care and panes with Joy and comfort . . . My Deare let me see you as soon as you can, . . . I am very sorry that ever I should have com down at all . . . and must rather leve all or want thy Deare company, which is so greate an affliction to me . . . I could writ for ever but my prayer for our hapy meting . . . thy most faithful and affectionat wife till Death, Jane Strickland.

And again—

I was in greate trouble thou was not well in this so extreame a great storme as I have never sene the like in my life, and it is so vialant here as was never, and (we) so badly put to it that we shall not knowe what to doe if it continew, for I do beleave thou hast as poor a wife and stuard as ever man had, for we buy most of our fodher, and he calls of me and I of him for mony, and I think we nether of us have any, but att our meting I will let thee know more, for Thomas is a very honyst man. I cane writ nothing, but I long to see thee. My poor Alis is, I hope, beter, but we all want thee our Dearest comfort. I am not very well soe I hope thou wilt excuse this bloted letter. I never longed more to see thee in all my life . . . my Dear this is all, for . . . I am in hast the post stays . . . writ as often as thou canst, for I take noe comfort but in thy leters, thearfor let me not want one as often as thou canst. My Deare, I am till Death, thy poore wife, Jane Strickland.

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"I am sure never man dissarved more joy," she writes in another letter to him; and his mother, Margaret Alford says also to this good man so capable of inspiring affection: "Sweet Jesus bless you in all your desins."

Jane's substantial fortune did something to sustain the failing fortunes of the Stricklands. Sir Thomas's second wife was Winifred Trentham, a co-heiress, whose portrait you see up there. John Charles Brooke, Somerset herald in the last century, states, that she, being in the household of James II and his Queen at St. Germain's, betrayed the secrets of their Court to the "pious and immortal" William, whereby all their schemes were frustrated; but until convicted herein of a cherished error, I can only regard her as a devoted Jacobite.

The Chancellor rightly tells us that Sir Thomas was M.P. for Westmorland from 1661 to 1676. In the latter year, three years after the passing of the Test Act, he is declared to be disabled from continuing any longer M.P., his crime being that, like his mother, Margaret Curwen, over again, he actually had the audacity to insist upon remaining a conscientious Catholic, a position to which a fresh disability was now attached. He had been summoned to Westminster to give an account of himself, and had striven by excuses to stave off the inevitable day of expulsion. In a letter of 1673 he writes to a brother-M.P.

I receaved by the post your obliging letter, a favour I have not had from many of my fellow-members, but for the matter as well as news the greatest part of it was very welcome, except persecution for conscience to which I was ever an enemy, but your friendly and gentlemanly offer to make my excuse in parliament for my absence, that, for all the truth I am Master of, I must ever acknowledge the testimony of a very good friend, and therefore shall desire you that if the too trew excuse will serve, in general my want of health will do it. I should be glad that might might pass. But my denial to this test is so notorious, besides my more publick separation since, as that perhaps too might reach, in case some person that is more of anger to me than yourself should start anything of that nature.

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I desire you will offer this in my vindication, for I do assure you I will stand by it that no test can be put to me to secure my allegiance to the King or Justice to my neighbour that I will refuse, but to swear negatives to speculative Matters of Divinity, I neither can or will do it. And should I appear at the bar of the house I should say the same. Now if this matter be examined against me, to be turned out of the house is but what I expect, and for so gentle a fall I should give the house my humble thanks, but if I should be sent for, or some more severe thing, all I can say is, my whole life hath been but a scene of misfortunes, and I should, I hope, support it with the same temper I have formerly.

This spirit, as West observes, is

generous, noble, and free. No Divine ever gave a clearer Explanation of the absurdity of the Test Act than is here given.

Machell, the Antiquary, pays a tribute in his own quaint, confused way to the family at this time, while furnishing, however, but an inadequate account of the causes of their decadence.

These Stricklands, he writes, are in a declining condition, occasioned by Sir Thomas lying at Court, and southeran life will not well suite with a Northern Estate; for they are generally more open-hearted than any other country men being trained thereunto by the freedom of entertainments which those counties so generally and easily afford. They have already made their tenants free-men by relieving them of their rent Service; and if I mistake not have left themselves nothing but their bare Domain lands of which they are yet masters but not Lords. I wish they may preserve that which is left. (*Hill MSS.*)

If Sir Thomas had been willing to take the new oath, and to acknowledge later on William the III, things might have gone better with him and his prospects, but he would do neither of these things. In some Fleming papers, which, will shortly see the light, (as I understand from one entitled to know,) a letter exhibits Sir Thomas compelled to choose between allegiance to William of Orange and giving up his sword. He elects the latter alternative. But perhaps the sword was only a Court one. Sir Thomas' exile at St. Germain's with
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James II, was shared by his kinsman, Admiral Strickland, who, after dutifully watching the Dutch fleet, in 1688, conducted the Queen and Prince of Wales over to France, and also by the Admiral's brother Robert, of Catterick, who became Treasurer to the ex-King and Vice Chamberlain to his Consort. All three Stricklands lived at St. Germain's; and there they elected to die, faithful to the last to those who had been so very unfortunate.

I should like to have said something about Sir Thomas' son Thomas, the good Bishop of Namur, whose portrait as a young man you may see up there, of whom there is another and a later picture in the dining room, and yet a third in the Belgian city which was the scene of his religious life, and who was sent on a mission to England by the Emperor Charles VI, just as I should like to have descanted a little on William Strickland, a much earlier prelate, Bishop of Carlisle in 1400, whose precise place, by the by, in our pedigree, has afforded room for conjecture. But my time is up, and with the good Sir Thomas I conclude.

He leaves advice to his son, containing, as Fr. West, S.J. observes, "more useful instruction than a volume of Lord Chesterfield's letters."

My Dear Child, I married thy Mother at the age of 53 years, and by the cours of Nature am not probable to live to see thee capable of receiving such councell and Education as I doe designe for thee, so shall commit thee solely to her charge to whom I command thee an exact Obedience for I am confident she will have Caire of that poor temporall estate I shall leave her, and will bring thee up in the fear of God and his Catholic Church; and that thou may not condemne thy poor Father when dead for the smallness of thy fortune when I came to be a man I had the reputation of a paternal Estate of £1,000 a year, and paid principal, Interest and annuities for it in my own life, above £27,000, so I may safley say I had not one penny of paternal fortune, but I got with my first wife a considerable fortune which gave me credit, and that credit I ever preserved, and I gave thy two eldest sisters £9,000 for portion. I married my Brother and gave him my Westmorland Estate, and though it did revert by his death, yet it was to my damage about
£3,000

£3,000. This considered, thou wilt not wonder I left no more; however I hope thou may come to more than I had. . . . And if God grant thee grace to follow those Councells I shall now give thee, I doubt not but thou will enjoy all temporall and Aeternal fælicity. The first thing I recomend to thee is the service of God and perseverance in his Church, and let that be thy *Primum Queritis*. . . . Therefore be suer never to neglect yr prayers morning and night and kepe your selfe under obligation to do it for by that means it will become easy and Delightfull, for I have never known any do it but they lived with credit and died hapily, and as oft as possible be present at divine service of the Mass. . . . The next thing I recommend to thee is to get learning and Knowledge, and this thou must doe in the days of thy youth, for after the age of 25, by practis thou must receive the advantage of and satisfaction of those labors and studies, and I doe particularly recommend the study of the Law, for men of that Science, not only raise great fortunes, but are adapted for all the great employments of this Kingdom, but knowledge is not got but by great Industry, therefore of all Crimes fly sloth and Idleness, for I promise to myself that God hath given thee a redy wit, and, therefore, will expect many good things from thee, as well as thy friends will hope and pray for them. Make thyselfe perfect in Arithmaticke, a thing soon got, it will be useful to thee in thy owne fortune, and in all occations of thy life, thou will find it advantageous. As I have advised thee what thou ought to doe, so let me tell thee what thou ought to avoid as a pest house. The First thing I advise thee against is the being a Gamester, a crime incident to the Family, and nothing more dangerous to destroy thy soul and thy fortune: for our family was reduced from a plentiful fortune to a weake condition by that failing in thy great grandfather who was otherwise an accomplished person. It reduseth Men to necessity, provokes swearing and cursing, the author of quarrells, makes men steal and turne robbers, and sends more brave men to Tyburn than any other vice; therefore for heavens sake avoid it as one of the worst of ills and the consumer of health and thy precious time I daire not recommend Marriage to thee over-young for it is hard for a young man to know either how to chuse or value a virtuous woman, therefore should not advise thee to that Staite of life before 25 at soonest, for boies affections are oft roving, therefore endeavor to Chuse a Woman whose Education and character is virtuous and modest, and let not fortune be the sole ame of marriage, though I know thy condition will much require it and there are good Women with great fortunes. But let the main ground of thy

thy marriage be grounded in the fear of God and trew affection, and that will survive all the troubles of a married life. For the sottish Vice of Drunkenness I hope it will never be thy Inclination, a Crime not incident to our family, and a sight so Odious, that (it) is more horrible to see a man drunk then the worst of Monsters. I earnestly beg of thee never to take tobako, that bewitching Smoke, and it Serves for no other good but to foment Idleness, Creat thirst, is a Companion to bibing, and an impairer of health, with the feeling of Melancholy. This little paper I leave as my last will, and universal legacy to thee and all thy brothers, which, if observed, is better than all I have, god knows, to leave you, and take this short sentence (with my prayers and blessings for you all) as my last bequest, *nemo fœliciter (moriatur) qui non pie Vivit.*

The portrait of Sir Robert Strickland in armour happens to be mending at Kendal, but there are two representations of his great son, the writer of the above, in this room, so that you can picture to yourselves the old man of 73 fallen upon an evil day for patriotism, ruined because of adherence to representatives (no matter how unworthy and ungrateful) of a principle, of a right which he deemed Divine, a wrecked career owing to his faithfulness to a religion that he believed to be the only true one, yet patient, nay even cheerful under every trouble. Sir Thomas impresses on us at their best two leading characteristics of a lengthy line; loyalty to God, and loyalty to Cæsar. He is the brightest jewel in the Strickland crown of a two-fold fidelity that shines out in him like lovely twin stars, the one never seen without the other. In presence of such a life theological conviction and national sentiment are set a-glow.

Despite the inspection of many notices and papers, through the courtesy of Mr. Strickland, Mr. Scrope, and others, I feel acutely the inadequacy of this brief survey of the sturdy British race at Sizergh, to which Sir Thomas Strickland belonged. His proscribed son Walter, obtained leave to return from France in 1699 (5 years after Sir Thomas' death). He discovered his old home after an eleven years' desertion, to be very much of a

crumbling wall. Since then, no one has more lovingly done his best than its present owner, to preserve the ancient muniments from rats and mice below, and a sound roof against the weather up above, treasuring whatever ancient features still remain here, and it is my trust that a prosperous future, of a-piece, in some measure at least, with the past glories of Sizergh Castle, may yet remain in store for the family of Strickland.
