

ART. X.—*The connection of a Kendal family with Rokeby.*
By JOHN ROBINSON, M.Inst.C.E.

Read at Darlington, September 14th, 1905.

THE late Mr. John Whitwell, M.P., in a paper read before the members of the Kendal Literary and Scientific Institution in 1866, observed that a member of the family of Robinson of Rokeby Hall, who was connected by marriage with the Tolsons of Tolson Hall, lived at the ancient White Hall in Kendal. It may be necessary to point out to the present generation that the Town Hall, which was erected in 1825-27, now occupies the site and that the rooms were, until a few years ago, familiarly known as the Whitehall Rooms. The Robinson referred to by Mr. Whitwell as having occupied Whitehall was William Robinson, who settled here in the reign of Henry VIII. and who was engaged in the staple trade of the town. It is supposed that he carried on an extensive business in the exportation of Kendal cottons to Virginia and the West Indies. These cottons it may be mentioned were woollen cloths, referred to by Camden in his *Britannia*, where he says that Kendal

is very eminent for the woollen manufacture and for the industry of the inhabitants, who trade throughout England with woollen cloth; and as early as Richard the second and Henry the fourth, we find special Laws enacted on purpose for the regulating of Kendal clothes.

According to Stuart in his *History of Armagh* the family removed from Kendal to Brignall near Rokeby, and again in the reign of Elizabeth to Rokeby Park within eight miles of Richmond. Rokeby was purchased from Sir Thomas Rokeby by William, grandson of William Robinson, who settled at Kendal.

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Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh, primate of all Ireland, who was the eighth in descent from William of Kendal, was created Baron Rokeby of Armagh in 1777. On the demise of his brother William in 1785 he succeeded to the baronetcy and became the survivor and representative of the Robinsons of Rokeby in the direct male line. He however did not inherit Rokeby Park, Sir Thomas having sold it during his lifetime, greatly to the chagrin and displeasure of his Grace. Lord Rokeby was a munificent benefactor to Armagh, founding not only the Public Library, which he endowed, but also the Armagh Observatory in 1791. During the last years of his life he had in contemplation the establishment of a National University in that city. It is interesting to note that the third astronomer at the Observatory was the celebrated Rev. Dr. Thomas Romney Robinson, son of Thomas Robinson, artist, a native of Bowness-on-Windermere. He died in 1882, aged 90.

Pedigree of de Bardesey.

