

ART. XIII.—*Fleming family memoranda from an old Bible.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON, F.S.A.

AMONG the papers bequeathed to Tullie House, Carlisle,¹ by the late Mr C. W. Ruston-Harrison of Stanwix, a member of Council, was his copy of some interesting memoranda written in a Bible of 1697 which belonged to Sir George Fleming, Bart., Bishop of Carlisle.

On the left hand top corner of the inside of the cover of the Bible was the date July 16, 98, and on the fly-leaf "George Fleming E. 317." On what Mr Ruston-Harrison calls fly-leaf 1b were the following notes:

December 27th 1739. This day was the Archdeacon, much contrary to my inclination, married at Bethom Church (Mr Wilson and all his Family present) to Mr Wilson's eldest daughter.

January, 9th 1741. This day was my daughter Fleming delivered of a Daughter called Catherine in Carlisle.

March 14th 1742. This morning died the Archdeacon in his House in Carlisle, and was buried the 19th in ye Cathedral by the side of his mother at my sole charge which amounted to (blank in original).

The Archdeacon was William Fleming, only son of George Fleming the owner of the Bible; his bride was his cousin, the granddaughter of George Fleming's eldest sister Catherine, who married Edward Wilson, of Dallam Tower. There are some candid references to the Archdeacon in the will of his uncle, Sir William Fleming of Rydal, dated 7 November 1734. Sir William had no son to succeed him, and at the time the Archdeacon was his second heir.

Of him Sir William observes that he does not know what judgment to form of him, since he has very seldom

¹ I am indebted to Carlisle City Libraries Committee and Mr Kenneth Smith, the City Librarian, for permission to print these notes.

seen him until lately, when he gave him the living of Grasmere, upon his father's resignation of it, "tho it was far from being acceptable to me never to hear from him all the last time he continued at Oxford, and to hear of his rejoicing bouts he made there upon hearing of the births of some of my daughters, for their being daughters, and to hear of the airs he gave himselfe there and at other places thereupon."²

William Fleming, who was born on 10 March 1709, matriculated at The Queen's College, Oxford, on 20 April 1727, graduuated B.A. on 17 February 1730-1, M.A. in 1733, and B. and D.C.L. in 1742.³ He succeeded his father as rector of Grasmere on 7 January 1733, and was appointed archdeacon of Carlisle on 11 March 1734, when his father became bishop of Carlisle. On 8 March 1735 he became vicar of Torpenhow, and on 13 November 1738, he became prebendary of the third stall in Carlisle cathedral. All these appointments he held until his death at the age of thirty-three in 1742.

The other entries in the Bible relate to Bishop Fleming's grandchildren:

X George. Born October 27th 1742.

X Richard. Born January 6th about ten at night 1743-4.

X Mary. Born at Rose November ye 3rd 1745 in ye morning.

III Mary. Born July 6th between nine and ten at night 1744.

III Barbara. Born December 30th about nine at night 1745.

November 26th 1745. This morning died little Fleming.⁴

George, Richard and Mary were three of the children of Joseph Dacre of Kirklington Hall, who married Catherine Fleming and Mary, later Lady Clerk, was the heroine of the White Cockade story related in CW I viii 257 *et seq.*

Mary and Barbara, born in 1744 and 1745, were the children of Edward Stanley, who married Mildred, another daughter of the Bishop.

² *Northern Genealogist* i 234. The will is at York.

³ Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses* (2nd ser.), ii 468.

⁴ "Little Fleming" was perhaps another grandson.