


The Rhymed Chronicle of John Harestaffe.

SUDBURY AND THE VERNONS.

EDITED BY THE REV. J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.

 ONE of the most interesting manuscripts in the valuable library of Sudbury Hall is a volume of rhymed annals of the family of Vernon, written by one who for fifty years was their faithful agent and confidential clerk. The book, which is of paper with a parchment cover, is endorsed, "John Harstaff's Poetry whilst he lived at Sudbury, 1635, of the Vernon family and concerns;" it is in good condition, and seems to have been always valued. For its better preservation, the late Lord Vernon placed it in a morocco case. In 1876 I had the opportunity kindly afforded me of making considerable extracts from the original manuscript, and of carefully examining it throughout. The present Lord Vernon (the seventh Baron) has now (1887) given generous permission for the whole of Harestaffe's poetry to be copied for the benefit and instruction of the members of the Derbyshire Archæological Society. These annals give a singularly vivid picture of country life in the time of Elizabeth and James, and a wonderfully close insight into the tortuous and not very limpid streams of litigation; they also afford a few most interesting glimpses into national history, giving some realistic touches pertaining to the great men of the time, such as Sir Robert Cecil and the unhappy Earl of Essex.

John Harestaffe wrote by far the greater part of his chronicle in 1615, but the latter part could not have been penned till some years later, as mention is made of the new manor house. The

whole, from the endorsement, seems to have been revised and transcribed in 1635.

It would have been pleasant to find out and to record anything of the life of this chatty and devoted chronicler, but although there are large and valuable collections of family papers and records at Sudbury, bound together in many volumes under the title "Vernoniana," there is nothing further known of John Harestaffe beyond what can be gleaned from his own writings, and from his monument in the church. The Sudbury registers only begin with the year 1673, so there is no help to be found in that quarter. He must, we think, have been a bachelor, and the rector tells us, to some extent confirmatory of this surmise, that there are none of his name in the parish nor immediate neighbourhood, nor does the name occur in the registers.

It was apparently in 1591 that John Harestaffe first entered the Vernon service, for he had "to doe in those affaires" for twenty-four years before he began to write of them. Originally the servant of John Vernon, he remained most constant to his widow Mary throughout her exceptional and cumulative troubles, and afterwards to the heir, Sir Edward Vernon. When his master died in 1600, the will bequeathed him a farm at Rodsley. Some difficulties arose about the conveyance of this freehold to him, possibly because he had so large a share in drawing up the will, but eventually it was assured to him,

"To recompence his travayles longe endured."

John Harestaffe died on December 1st, 1645. A mural monument in the Parish Church gives the following minute particulars of his characteristic will* :—

"Here lyeth the Body of John Harstaffe Gent who being very charitable in his lifetime by his last Will and Testament in writing under his hand and seall dated the 29th of April 1641 did will and declare that W^m Sherwin and Steeven Parker his Feoffees and their heires from and immediately after his decease should stand and be seized of all that his Messvage Farme or Tenement in

* For this transcript and other information I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. T. H. Freer, the Rector of Sudbury.

Roddesly with the appurtenances and all houses buildings lands tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging then in the tenure of Thomas Sherwin and John Sherwin or one of them or their assigns to the use and behoof of Sir Edward Vernon during his naturall life and after his decease to the use of Henry Vernon sonne and heir apparent of the said Sir Edward Vernon and the heyres male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such issue to the use of the heires male of the said Sir Edward and for want of such issue to the right heires of him the said John Harstaffe for ever upon condicōn that there be yearly paid out of the rents thereof by the said Sir Edward and by every such other person and persons as thereafter shall be owners thereof the sume of £18 yearly for ever to the parson of this parish for the time being and his successors att the feast of the nativitie of our Lord the annuntiation of the Blessed Virgin Mary the nativitie of S^t John Baptiste and the feast of S^t Michael by equal portions to bee paid ever immediatly by the said parson unto the churchwardens and by them to bee bestowed in manner following that is to say $\frac{L}{XI}$ $\frac{S}{14}$ in bread and $\frac{S}{4}$ and $\frac{d}{6}$ weekly in 18 3penny loaves to be given every sabbath day after morning prayer to 18 poor In habitants within the parish to be nominated by the said Sir Edward during his life and after at the discretion of the parson and Churchwardens with the advise of the Lord of the Mannor and some of the Chiefe men of the parish from time to time $\frac{L}{2}$ $\frac{S}{18}$ thereof to be distributed by the said Churchwardens yearly to the said 18 poor Inhabitants in manner following that is to say to every one of them $\frac{D}{XII}$ upon the Sabbath day next before Easter $\frac{D}{XII}$ the Sabbath day next before Whitsuntide $\frac{D}{XII}$ the Sabbath day next before All Saints Day and $\frac{D}{XII}$ the Sabbath day next before Christmas and $\frac{S}{XXX}$ thereof equally to be divided betwixt the parson and the Churchwardens in respect of their paines and the 18 remaining to be employed yearly towards the keeping and maintaineing the Bells and Clocke in good order and fencing the churchyard if need require and in a Codicell annexed to his will dated the 12th day of July 1644 he further declared his will to be that in case it should fall out in after times that there bee such abatements in the valew of lands that the said summe will not be conveniently yearly raysed out of the rents & profits of the said Farme that then such rents and profits as according to the times may be yearly raysed being rated into 4 parts three of those parts shall be yearly employed according to the tenor purport and intension of his said will—Hee departed this life the first day of December 1645 and his will was proved by Sir Edward Vernon Knite and Mastar Thomas Vernon his Executors in the Dioces of Coventry and Lichfield the 6th day of December 1646

The muse of John Harestaffe may not be very brilliant, though, compared with the literature of the age it need by no means be despised, but, at all events, the virtue of modesty is everywhere apparent, and truth and accuracy seem never sacrificed for the sake of effect or antithesis.

“ I'll bringe them together as I may
 Lesse reckoninge method, soe y^t truth I say ”

is a couplet very characteristic of the whole chronicle.

Two and a half centuries after it was penned, we are very grateful for the leisure that came to John Harestaffe when there was peace from the warfare of the courts of law, for thus it was that he found time to be the quaint family historian : --

“ Yet since I now have store of idle tyme,
 Although but harsh and forced be my ryme,
 I'll borrow leave to treat thereof a whyle
 To please myself, and idle houres beguyle.”

But still, towards the end of his rhymes, in his riper age, John Harestaffe had some perception that this faithful mirror of the part he had played for half a century in sustaining the honour of a noble family might be of some interest to coming generations, though we suspect that his vainest dreams never pictured that his records would be printed :—

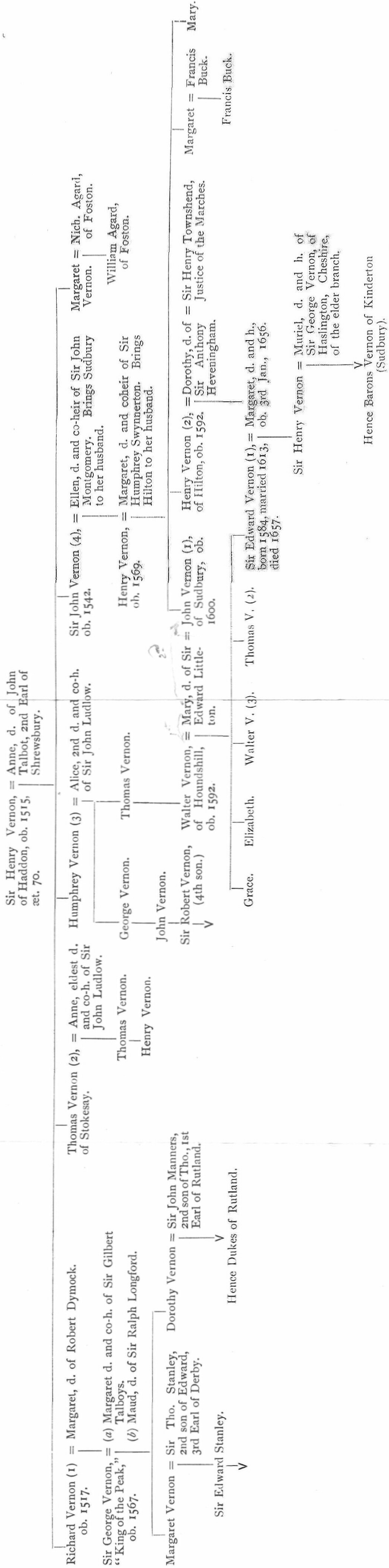
“ And nowe because I thinke there wilbe some,
 (Though yet unborne) y^t in the tyme to come
 Wilbe content to read what here I wryte,
 Although but rudely I the same indyte,
 Yet being done in ayde of memorie,
 And for to gratifye Posteritie,
 A litle more I will my ryme inlarge,” etc.

There is not a single line of this vivid tale of bygone days that the intelligent reader would wish left unwritten, and no one can grudge Master Harestaffe the leisure that he put to so pleasant a use.

As to the subject of his poetic efforts, Derbyshire men can readily find, and many of them well know, the particulars of the early history of the ancient family of Vernon, that derives its name from its primitive domicile in Normandy. Richard de Vernon, who came over at the Conquest, was soon after created Baron of Shipbroke, in Cheshire. In the thirteenth century a younger son of one of the Barons of Shipbroke married a co-heiress of Avenell, of Haddon, and hence obtained a footing

Outline Pedigree of part of the Descent of Vernon, of Sudbury.

(TO ILLUSTRATE HARSTAFFE'S RHYMED CHRONICLE.)



in the county of Derby. The elder line of the Haddon branch of the Vernons became extinct in 1561, on the death of Sir George Vernon. Sir John Vernon, a younger son of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon, settled at Sudbury in the reign of Henry VIII., through a marriage with a co-heiress of Montgomery. His son, Henry Vernon, married a co-heiress of Swynnerton, and so obtained Hilton, in Staffordshire. His eldest son John Vernon, had no issue, but married Mary, widow of Walter Vernon, of Houndshell, descended from another son of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon. John Vernon, of Sudbury, made his step-son, Sir Edward Vernon, his heir, who married his cousin Margaret, and thus retained Hilton. Sir Henry Vernon, son and heir of Sir Edward, married Muriel, daughter and heiress of Sir George Vernon, of Haslington, Cheshire, by which match his posterity became the representatives of the original elder male line of the Vernons, Barons of Shipbroke.

More need not here be said of the intricate connections of the Vernons, as it comes out in the chronicle itself, is further elucidated by the notes, and is made, we trust, quite clear by the accompanying outline pedigree that has been specially drawn up. There is much that is conflicting in various printed Vernon pedigrees, as well as in some MS. ones; it is hoped that this one is entirely accurate; the great majority of its names and their connections must be correct, for they are taken from unpublished abstracts of Rutland evidences, and from documents in the Sudbury "Vernoniana."

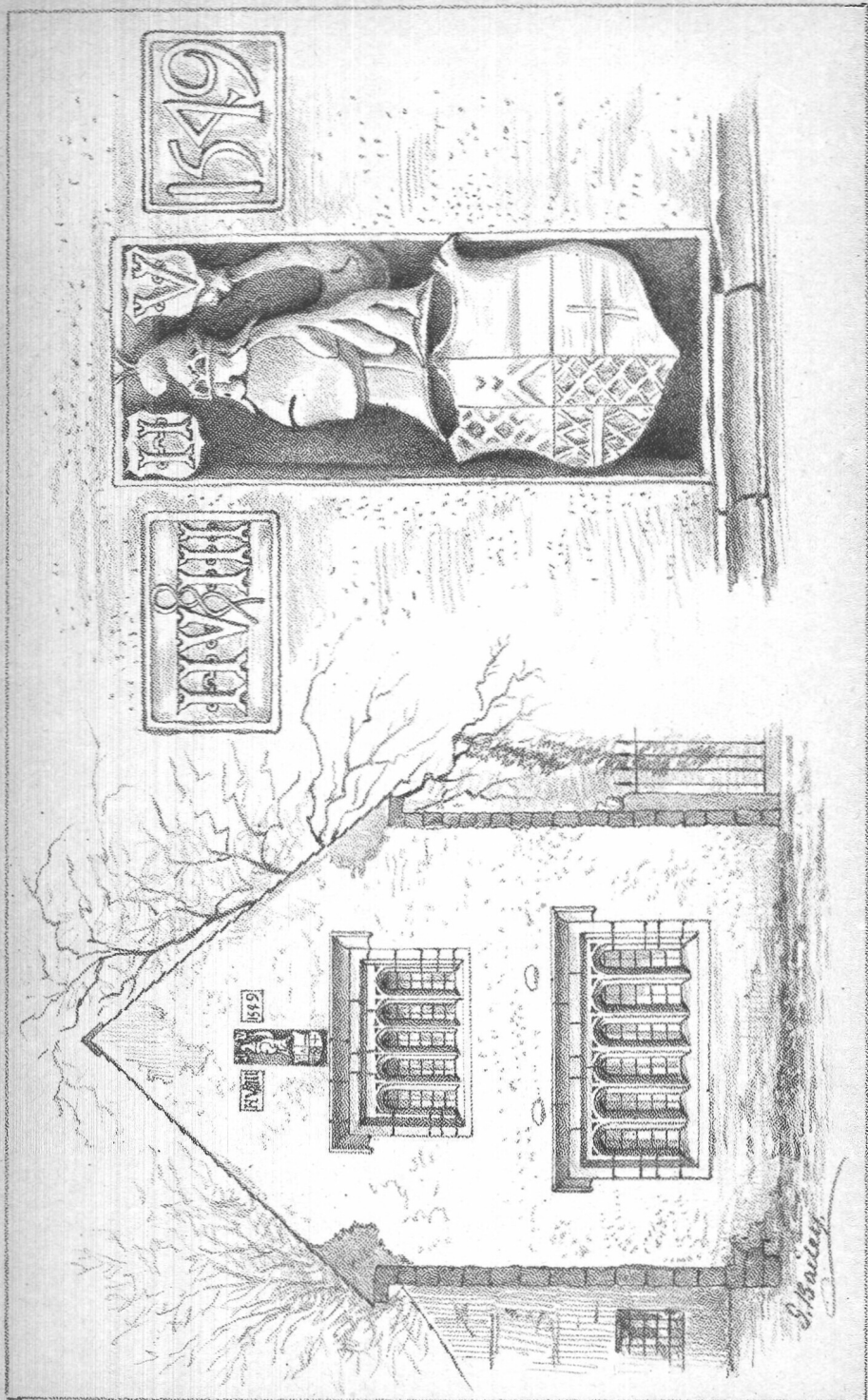
The patient, forgiving, but determined heroine of Harestaffe's song is Mary, daughter of Edward Littleton, the wife of (1) Walter Vernon, of Houndshell, and then of (2) John Vernon, of Sudbury. The villain of the plot, though to some extent Justice Townshend, is also chiefly played by a woman, Dorothy, the daughter of Sir Anthony Heveningham, and wife of (1) Henry Vernon, of Hilton, and of (2) Sir Henry Townshend. It is remarkable that the name of Dorothy does not once occur in Harestaffe's rhymes, nor does he give any clue to her family; only those who are used to genealogical research can enter into the trouble and time that

were necessary before this and other blanks and links could be filled up in the pedigree sheet.

The opening pages of this chronicle give an interesting and hitherto altogether unrecorded account of Hazelbach, or Hazelbadge Hall, and its connection with the Vernons. The manor of Hazelbadge first came to the Vernons in the reign of Henry V., through the Strelleys. Whilst Sir George Vernon, the celebrated "King of the Peak," was in his minority, his uncle, Sir John Vernon, acted, by appointment of the crown, as his guardian; and after he came of age, as is testified by Harestaffe, was of considerable service to his nephew.* Sir George granted to his uncle a lease of Hazelbadge for eighty years, at a nominal rental of 1d., though worth £140 per annum. Sir John's son, Henry Vernon, who married a co-heiress of Swynnerton, and obtained Hilton, for the most part resided at Hazelbadge. The hall, or manor house, has now for some time been turned into a farm-house, and the greater part has been either pulled down or altogether modernised. But a picturesque Elizabethan gable (Plate III.) still fronts the road on the left hand side soon after leaving the

* The following call upon Sir John Vernon to furnish a Derbyshire force of 100 armed soldiers from his nephew's Derbyshire tenantry, to proceed to Dover, in the summer of 1522, will be read with interest. It is taken from the Sudbury "Vernoniana" :—

"Henry the viijth by the grace of God King of England & France defensor of the Faith & Lord of Irland To our trusty & welbeloved John Vernon Squier and stuarde of the landes belonging to the inheritance of yong Vernon our warde, and to all & singuler the Bailifes Officers Fermors & tennantes of the same landes and to every of theym thies our letters hering or seing greting, Wheras we have appointed our trusty and welbeloved servant William Coffyn to do unto us service of warre at this tyme with the number of oon hundred persones to be taken of the Fermors and tennantes of the said landes, We by thies presentes auctorise the said William Coffyn and you the said John Vernon geving you expresse charge & comaundment to leveye & provyde of the said Fermors & tennantes for this purpose suche & as many with harness convenient for theym as the said William Coffyn shall think good to proceed in our said warres at his leding. So as he may be with the said nnumber at our Towne of Dover by the viijth day of August nowe ensuyng Charging by tenor hereof all & singuler the said Officers and tennantes that unto our said servant & to youe they be obeying & attendant in execution of this comaundment as they will answer to us at their perilles. And thies our letters shall be aswel to the said William Coffyn as to you the said John Vernon & to all and every the said Officers Fermors and tennantes sufficient waraunt & discharge any acte or statute heretofore made to the contrary notwithstanding. Geven under our Signet at our Castell of Wyndesor the xxvij day of July the xiiijth yere of our reigne."

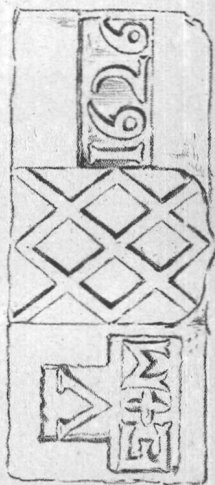


HAZELBADGE MANOR HOUSE

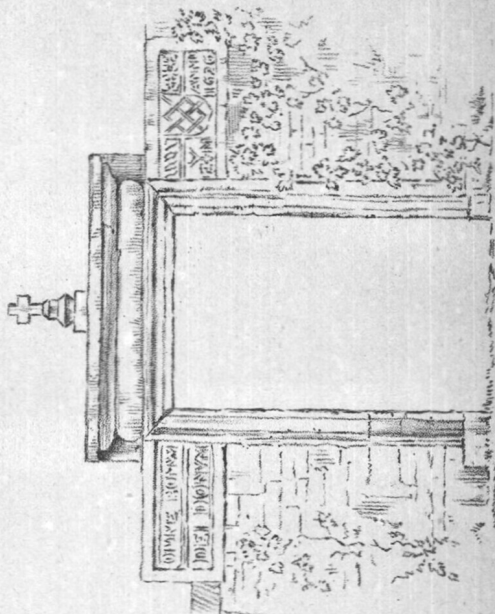
S. Bailey



DETAILS OF DOORWAY INTO THE CHURCHYARD.



LINTEL OVER DOORWAY TO THE AMERICAN GARDEN.



DOORWAY FROM THE GROUNDS TO THE CHURCHYARD.

little town of Bradwell for Tideswell. The front of the house is of stone covered with rough plaster, and is whitewashed, except the mullions and corners. The old stone coping has been removed when the roof was slated. In the apex of the gable are the arms, crest, and lettering shown on the plate. The Vernon crest, a boar's head erased, ducally gorged, is fairly distinct. The quartered arms are much weathered, but they show the Vernon fret and the Swynnerton cross fleury. The date 1549 is very legible, and so are the initials H.V and the three strokes or I's that come after. What the III stands for is a puzzle. The most likely solution that occurs to us is this—namely, that Henry Vernon, the son of Sir John, who rebuilt this part of the manor house, did so just at the time of or immediately after the birth of his second son Henry, and signalled the birth by terming Henry Vernon the third, taking his grandfather, Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon, as the first.

Another epoch in the building history of the Vernons is elucidated by Harestaffe, and in this instance of far more importance to the main family, for it refers to Sudbury Hall. Up to the death of John Vernon, the rectory house had often been utilised by the lord of Sudbury, as for some time there had been no manor house. Soon after peace had been made between the litigants by the marriage of Sir Edward Vernon with his cousin Margaret in 1613, Mistress Mary Vernon began to plan out a new manor house, which is the present hall. It was evidently completed, according to the monument, before her death in 1622. The ornamental garden walls were erected by her son not long after. The charming doorway, surmounted by a cross, leading from the grounds to the churchyard (Plate IV.*), is flanked on the one side by a stone inscribed *Omne bonum, Dei donum*, and on the other by the initials of Edward and Margaret Vernon, with the arms of Vernon, and two crosses fleury (intended perhaps for Swynnerton) above the date 1626. The same initials, arms, and

*For the drawings on this plate we are indebted to the able pencil of Dr. Livesay, of Sudbury.

date are repeated over a door that leads from the American garden into the kitchen garden. On a stone built into the lintel of the old stable door are the arms of Vernon impaling Onley, flanked by the initials ^V_{C.M.}, and the date 1664. The well-known Vernon motto, *Vernon semper viret*, is below the shield, but almost illegible. George Vernon, grandson of Sir Edward, married for his first wife Margaret Onley. He inherited the property in 1658, and died in 1702.

It now only remains to give a verbatim copy of John Harestaffe's rhymes.

JOHN HARSTAFF'S POETRY WHILST HE LIVED AT SUDBURY
1635, OF THE VERNON FAMILY AND CONCERNS.

JOHN HARESTAFFE whyls't he dwelt at Sudburie
Did write as here ensewes for memorie . . .

1615.

I here intend to make a true Relation,
According to my plaine and simple fashion,
Of manie troubles and incumbrances,
With sundrie suites and other greevances
Which hapt to Maister Vernon in his lyffe,
And after his decease unto his wyffe:
Which I (their servant) better can declare,
Because therein I had noe litle share:
'Tis nowe noe lesse than foure and twentie yeares
Since first I had to doe in those affaires:
About the whiche (I trulie may affirme)
For twelve or thirtene yeares I mist noe Terme.

Herein I purpose also to relate,
In what great danger stood his whole estate:
And lykewyse make particuler narration,
Howe he disposed his lands by Declaration:
And howe his friends and servants he regarded,
Not leaving anie of them unrewarded.

First then to shewe his name and Pedegree,*
 This worthie Esquire was Lord of Sudburie,
 John Vernon called, whose father Henry wight,
 The sonne and heire of Sr John Vernon, Knight,
 Of Haddon house a younger sonne was he,
 And married Ellen second of the three
 Coheires unto Sr John Mounghomerie.
 By her came Sudbury with other landes
 And manie faire possessions to his handes :
 Whereof to treat I do not here intend,
 But onely shew they lineallye descend
 From her to Henry, and from him to John,
 Who beinge yonge did enter thereupon.
 He was by suites of lawe encumbred long,
 And by his mothers meane's endured much wrong,
 Who practized by all the wayes she might
 To injure him, and take away his right :
 Not only in such things his father left him,
 But also of his Birth-right she bereft him,
 And gave her Landes unto his yonger brother :
 Who can speak well of so unkynd a mother ?
 She was Coheire unto an auncient Squier
 Hight Thomas Swynnerton of Staffordshire : †
 Whose Landes she with a sister did devyde :

* See the skeleton pedigree prepared to illustrate, as far as possible, all the Vernons and their kinsfolk named in the chronicle.

† Thomas Swynnerton, of the ancient and distinguished family of Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, was Sheriff of Staffordshire, 1536-7; he married Alice, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley, of Fife, and died 1542-3. He died seized of both Swynnerton and Hilton. Hilton originally came to the family in 1311, through John de Swynnerton, second son of Roger de Swynnerton. Humphrey de Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, about 1450, brought Hilton to the senior branch of the family by marriage with Anna, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Swynnerton, of Hilton; this Humphrey was grandfather of Thomas Swynnerton, the Sheriff. His only son, Humphrey Swynnerton, of Swynnerton and Hilton, married Cassandra, daughter of Sir John Giffard, of Chillington; he died in 1562, leaving, as his heirs, two daughters. Margaret, the eldest, married Henry Vernon, of Sudbury, and brought to him Hilton; Elizabeth, the younger daughter, married William Fitzherbert, and brought to him Swynnerton. See an excellent and full account of the Swynnertons, of Swynnerton, in the 7th vol. of the *Salt Archeological Society Transactions*, by Hon. and Rev. Canon Bridgeman.

Both Hilton, Swinnerton and much besyde*
 In Sharshill, Saredon, and in Essington,
 In Hampton, Penkridge, and in Huntington
 Asp'ey and Sugnell, and in others moe,
 Which I have heard of, but did never knowe.
 Hilton an auncient house fell to her share
 A Park and faire Demaines belonginge are
 Unto the same of which and all the rest
 She John deprivyd, yonge Henry to invest,
 Who after her decease the same possest.

But Henry did not long enjoy the same :
 For being wedded to a gallant dame,
 He leaving her with chyld did end his lyffe,
 Comitting goods and lands all to his wyffe.
 Who shortly after had a daughter faire,
 Unto her father's landes the onelie heire.

Yong Henryes match did verie much displease
 His elder brother John, who for to raise
 Their house and name did formerlie intend,
 That all his lands should after him discend
 On Henry. But that marriage chang'd his mynd
 Soe much that afterwards he was unkynd
 Both to his brother's Infant, and his wyffe,
 Soe that amongst them soone befell great stryffe
 And suites in lawe : All w^{ch} I could declare
 For by them I sustain'd much toyle and care
 And therefore nowe y^t labour meane to spare.

By these he was exasperated more,
 And (w^{ch} did also discontent him sore)

* Of the "much besyde" of the great Swynnerton inheritances in Staffordshire here named, lands at Hampton had pertained to the family since the time of John, and at Aspley and Sugnell since the time of Henry III.; whilst the manor of Essington, and lands at Shareshull, Sardon, Penkridge, and Huntington came to John de Swynnerton (mentioned in the last note as the first owner of Hilton) in the year 1306, through marriage with Anne, daughter and heiress of Philip de Montgomery, Seneschal of the Forest of Cannock.

One Justice Townsend* from y^e Marches came,
And did espouse the yong and loftie Dame.

They sell and cutt downe woods, great waste they make,
But then, whether it was redresse to take,
Or for his owne avayle, or else of grudge,
To them, It fitts not me therof to judge,
He went about, and by all meanes prepar'd
To fynd his brothers heire the Prince's Wardet†
And to that end he quicklie sett to worke,
One Wakeringe then, who for such praies did lurke,
And was as faythfull as a Jewe or Turke.
Betweene them two I think it was agreed,
That if in this affaire they hapt to speede,
The Wardship should to Vernon granted be,
And Wakeringe should in money have his fee.
All their proceedings here for to repeate,
Would be but little worth (though labour great)
Short tale to make (w^{ch} was of all y^e ground)
She was prov'd Ward, a Tenure there was found.
How truly, here I list not to decyde
Theirs be y^t charge by whom y^t poynt was tryed.
The Wardship Maister Vernon looked to have,
But Wakeringe (since made knight) proved then a — ‡
Alledginge that it lay not in his handes,
Unto their first accord as then to stand :
And good cause why, for Justice Townshend's purse
Did open wyder, and more crownes disburse :

* Sir Henry Townshend, of an old Norfolk family, was the third son of Robert, third son of Sir Roger Townshend, Justice of the Common Pleas, temp. Henry VII. His father, Sir Robert Townshend, was Justice of Chester in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary. Sir Henry was constituted Justice of Chester 21 Elizabeth, and was confirmed in that appointment on the accession of James. In 1618 he was nominated by the Council to Lord Compton, Lord President of the Principality and Marches of Wales; he died in 1622.

† The heir of a king's tenant, that held by knight's service or *in capite*, was a royal or "Prince's Ward" during nonage.

‡ Knave. [Note in the MS.]

He therefore got y^e wardship of the Chylde,
 And Vernon by Sir Gilbert* was beguyled :
 Who made himself the Fermo^r of her landes,
 And during nonage kept them in his handes,
 And here might Maister Vernon well repent
 His labours ill-employ'd and money spent.
 But oftentimes we see it come to passe
 When men, of malice, seeke their neighbo's losse,
 Or worke their owne revenge, It pleaseth God,
 To beate themselves, they make a smartinge-rod :
 As in this case it afterwards befell,
 Both to himself, and those he lov'd right well.
 For nowe forthwth newe suites they doe comence
 I'th Court of Wardes against him wth pretence
 To right the Ward, whose tytle in such sort
 Was favour'd be y^e friendship of that Court,
 That they recover'd there out of his handes,
 A manie parcells of his mothers landes :
 Which for some yeares before he had enjoy'd
 As Copi-holde

Nor sought they to avoyd
 Him from y^e same.

Nor doe I thinke they could
 Had not y^e Court of Wardes therein controul'd.

Besydes they sued him in the Chauncerie
 For certaine summes of money formerlie
 Receav'd by him for lands w^{ch} by his mother
 Had beene convay'd unto his yonger brother
 In sale wher of they joyn'd the one wth th' other.

Which sumes amountinge to nyne hundred pounde
 As debte yet due to Henryes will were founde.

* We suppose this must be Sir Gilbert Talboys, whose daughter Margaret was the first wife of Sir George Vernon ; see pedigree table.

They charg'd him further wth Sixe hundred more,
 Which they alledg'd he had receav'd before
 His brother's death, who mortgag'd for y^e same,
 A farm he held call'd Haselbach* by name.
 Concerninge w^{ch} sith thus it comes i' th' way
 I thinke it not amisse somethinge to say :
 This Farme of Haselbach, whereof I speake,
 Is seituat nere Castleton ith' Peake :
 And worth (as by y^e Rentall did appeare)
 But litle lesse than Seav'n score pounce a yeare :
 Part of the Vernons lands long had it beene,
 As in their auncient Deedes is to be seene.
 Sir George who of y^e Vernons was y^e last
 That held those goodlie lands, from whom they past
 By two Coheires out of the Vernon's name
 (For w^{ch} great Talbott† was y^e more to blame)
 S^r George I say of whom yet manie speake
 (For great houskeepinge termed King oth' Peak)
 Was much directed in his yonger yeares,
 In all his causes and his greate affaires,
 By 's uncle S^r John Vernon's good advyse,
 Who was a learned man, discrete and wyse :
 Wherefore S^r George to shew y^t he was kynd,
 And to his uncle bare a thankfull mynd,
 Of Haselbach he granted then a Lease,
 To him and his assignes w^{ch} should not cease,
 Until y^e terme of fourscore yeares were spent,
 Reservinge thereupon a pennie rent.
 S^r John until his death posses't y^e same :

* See Introduction.

† Is not this an error for "Talboys"? Sir Gilbert Talboys was the father of the first wife of the "King of the Peak." But the line is puzzling. The skeleton pedigree, giving the descent of Sir George Vernon, and showing that he was nephew to Sir John Vernon, of Sudbury, is one of the first times that Sir George's parentage has been rightly given. There is a strange confusion in the usual statements of the Vernon descent; almost every printed source of information makes Sir George to be the son, instead of the grandson, of Sir Henry Vernon. This part of our pedigree is compiled from Rutland evidences that were kept at Haddon as late as 1833.

And afterwards this Farme to Henry came
 His onelie sonne who held it duringe liffe
 But after his decease there fell great stryffe
 About it, through y^e practise of his wyffe.
 This Henry Vernon was of great esteeme
 A man both wyse and learned (as may seeme)
 Who in his Cuntrie also bare great sway,
 And kept a worthie house, as old men say,
 Who often talke of him ev'n to this day.

It chanced (manie yeares before his death)
 He went and served in the Warres at Leath*
 In Scotland, where he was a Captaine then,
 Ore some three hundred of his cuntrimen
 But he had thought it meete before he went,
 For to ordaine his Will and Testament :
 Wherin to John his sonne he did bequeath
 The Farme of Haselbach after his death,
 When eyghteen yeares of age he did attaine
 Meane tyme ith mothers handes it should remayne
 And after y^t as seemeth true and plaine,
 He never alter'd it, but left it soe :
 But what's so foule y^t mallice will not doe ?
 He sicke or dead his wyffe found out y^e Will,
 (And to her elder sonne intendinge ill)
 She secreatlye y^e name of John did race,
 And put y^e name of Henry in y^e place :
 That this is true I know not who will sweare,
 Yet stronge presumptions make y^e case too cleare.
 For it was knowne not long before he dyed,
 His Will did in y^e former state abyde,
 Which was by oath of Witnessse testified :
 Besydes it was too manyfestlye knowne,
 She used meanes to gett herself alone

* This refers to the war of the Scottish Reformation in 1559, when Leith was for some time besieged.

Into his Studie, when she did desyre,
 And for that purpose had a crooked wyer,
 Wherwith she easlie could unlock y^e door,
 And leave it in such order as before :
 And when in private she resorted thither
 Both pen and inke sometymes she did take with her,
 And sett a maid to watch whyle she staid there
 Where both his Will and other wrytings were,
 Some servants too who were acquaynted best
 With both their handes, did on their oath protest,
 They thought it not his hand, but hers much rather,
 As by the forme oth' letters they did gather.

These things and manie other being brought
 In evidence on John's behalf, who sought
 To right himself herein against his mother
 Who helde y^e Farme and also gainst his brother
 (Whom she defended) gave such satisfaction
 Unto a Jury (charg'd to trye the Action)
 Ith' Court of Cōmon Pleas) that they had greed
 On John's behalf their Verdict should proceede.

But too much cunnige all the cause did marre :
 For as the Jurie came unto to the Barre,
 A Juror (by a compact underhand)
 In private lett a servant understand
 Gainst Vernon would their present Verdict passe :
 But Goodman Blockhead, lyke a drunken Asse
 Forgetting that his Maisters right was tryed
 Ith' name of Buck against Vernon forthwth hyed
 And tould his Maister y^t the truth was soe
 A present Verdict would against him goe :
 Who caused Buck be non-suite* thereupon :
 And lost the cause which els wth him had gone.

* "*Non Suite* is a renouncing of the suit by the plaintiff or demandant, most commonly upon the discovery of some error or defect, when the matter is so far proceeded in, as the jury is ready at the bar to deliver their verdict."—Cowel's *Interpreter*.

This Suite as by y^e Copies doth appeare,
 Did happen in the two and twentyth yeare
 Of our late Sov'aigne Queene Elizabeth :
 About tenn yeares after y^e father's death :
 In all w^{ch} tyme and two or three yeares after
 Continewed suites twixt mother, sonne, & daughter
 For she did practize lykewyse to defeate
 Her elder daughter called Margaret,
 Of some fyve hundred marks left by her father
 Which she by changinge of y^e names, had rather
 Should come unto her yonger daughter Mary
 About w^{ch} poynt oth' Will they long did varie.
 I dare not say, that it was verie sooth,
 Though manie did beleeve it for a truth :
 For she was cunninge, could both read & wryte,
 And to her elder children had much spyte
 But on y^e yonger sett her cheefe delight.

This Farme of Haselbach did still remayne
 Ith' mother's handes Till Henry did attayne
 To eightene yeares & thenceforth he possesit it
 For soe (they say) his fathers will exprest it.

But after it once came to Henry's handes,
 In that he had noe other state or landes,
 Nor other Lyvelihood did as then enjoy,
 His elder brother would not him annoy :
 But shortlie to attonement wth him grewe,
 And then good friendship twixt them did ensewe :
 Soe that yong Henry helde it without stryfe,
 From thenceforth duringe all his term of lyffe :
 And by his Will he left it to his wyffe
 And Chylde unborne : Whereon this Suite they ground,
 Gainst Maister Vernon for six hundred ponde :
 From which I have digressed somewhat longe
 Onely to shewe in part his mother's wronge.

But now I will retorne unto the same,
And here declare what end thereof became.

The severall sumes demanded did amount
To fiftene hundred poundes, by their account :
To wit, for sale of Aspley and Sugnell, nine,
And sixe for Haselbach, w^{ch} made fiteene.

Gainst w^{ch} then Maister Vernon went about
For to declare and sett his tytles out,
Both to y^e Landes were sould, and to y^e Lease
Of Haselbach : and how he did in peace
Permitt his brother to injoy them still,
During his lyffe of friendship and goodwill,
Intendinge to have beene to him more kynde,
If he had match't accordinge to his mynd,
Even soe farre forth as to have made him heire
To all his lands: Besydes it myght appeare
That Henryes state was not soe absolute,
But verie manye had y^e same in doubt,
Soe much that he to whom those lands were sould,
To deal with them would not have been so bolde,
Had John not joyned with his yonger brother
And given securitie as well as th' other.

For Haselbach himself did mortgage it,
With whom his brother joyned (as was fitt)
And both had equall power it to redeeme
But he best right (if conscience they esteeme.)

Thus eyther partie labour'd for to prove
Their causes good, as it did them behooove :
Yet by the labour of some frendes at last
Some motion of agreement mongst them past
To put this matter to arbitrement,
Whereto ith' end both parties gave consent.
The arbitrato's at th' appoynted day

Awarded Maister Vernon for to pay
 To Justice Townshend these demaunds to cleare,
 Upon's owne bonds, one hundred markes a yeare,
 Untill one thousand marks were fullye paid :
 W^{ch} was not hard (me thought) all things well waid :
 Yet Maister Vernon thought it was too much,
 But notwthstandinge since th' award was such,
 He gave y^e Bondes and so did end y^e stryfe
 And made one payment only in his lyffe
 For ere y^e second Payment did ensewe,
 It pleased God, he yealded Nature's due.

But while y^e Suites were prosecuted hard
 Against him in pretence to right the Ward,
 Soe greate offence thereby he did conceave,
 That oft he did protest he would not leave
 That might descend on her one foote of s lande
 Although she was next heire. Nowe understande,
 He had noe chyld himself, nor married were
 Till he had past his one and fiftith yeare :
 Then tooke to Wyffe a Wydowe of his name,
 Who was a worthie, wyse, and vertuous Dame :
 Good Walter Vernon's wyffe once had she beene
 Of Houndhill : and had borne him children nine :
 Four were deceas'd there rested then alyve
 Three Sonnes and Daughters two, in number fyve :
 From Haddon house these Vernons (as y^e other)
 Descended also of a yonger brother,
 But from the Littletons they came by mother.
 A worthie Knight her father men did call
 Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton Hall.*

* Mary, the wife of (1) Walter Vernon and (2) John Vernon, was the daughter of Sir Edward Littleton, of Pillaton Hall, by his wife Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Devereux. The "three sonnes and daughters two," mentioned in the Chronicle as the children living by her first husband, will be found on the pedigree table.

Soe wyselie did this Dame herself behave,
 And unto him such faire advice she gave,
 That she procur'd him to reduce his landes,
 The state wherof had longe beene in y^e handes
 Of such a frend as he did then elect,
 When rather death than lyffe he did expect :
 One William Atkinson a Lawyer hee
 But such a one for faithe and honestie
 As of his ranke too fewe I feare there bee
 This man releas't him from Imprisonment,
 Wherin two tedious yeares wel nere he spent
 At London in the Poultrie Compter* where
 With manie executions charg'd he were,
 And Actions great, above ten thousand pound,
 On Bondes & Statutes wherein he stood bound
 For Frendes and kindsmen : But ere this was done
 He stated all his Landes on Atkinson,
 By good assurance as he could devyse,
 Without condition then in anie wyse :
 For why? his care was not on Landes but lyffe,
 Because y^t tyme the Plaguet† were verie ryffe
 In London, and suspected to beginne
 Within y^t Prison which he lived in :
 He stood not then on points of revocation
 But sought inlargement after anie fashion :

* Compter, or counter, was a term applied to certain prisons, originally intended for debtors, "whereinto (according to Cowel's interpretation of the term) he that once slippeth is like to account ere he can get out." The two city (London) prisons in the Poultry and in Wood Street, from the time of Elizabeth down to their demolition, were always known by this name. But other gaols, as for instance, one in Southwark, were also called Counters. The Poultry Counter had a singularly evil reputation, even in those days of bad gaols, for filth and cruel treatment; in the days of Elizabeth it was generally kept well supplied with Recusant priests and laymen, not a few of whom died from sickness within its walls. To be moved from the Poultry to any other London prison seemed always to be an acceptable change. But one imprisoned, as John Vernon was, for a civil cause, would doubtless be able to purchase his own comforts.

† In 1603-4, no less than 30,578 persons perished in London of the plague; there were also several severe attacks, in which many thousands died, during the last decade of Elizabeth's reign.

Intreatinge Atkinson most earnestlie,
 To take his Landes, and worke his libertie :
 Protestinge y^t it was his meaninge playne,
 The same should unto him and his remayne
 For soe as he might beare a seemlie porte,
 And live himself in gentlemanlyke sorte
 And at his end some Quillets might dispose,
 Of noe great valewe, for y^e good of those
 His frendes and servants whom he best affected
 He car'd not for his kinne, nor heires respected.

Thus soon he Atkinson to take his land,
 And his redemption so to take in hand :
 Which he with earnest labour went about,
 And us'd all speedie meanes to gete him out,
 Discharginge manie debts wth present pay,
 Compoundinge others for a longer day :
 For parte wherof he & his frendes gave bandes,
 But for the greatest he did mortgage landes :
 Soe by his true endeavour with good speede
 Was Maister Vernon from his thrauldome freed.
 Faire fall a faithfull friend in time of need.

Ere long they both came into Derby-shire,
 For there to be they had noe small desyre
 Vernon to see his cuntrie and his frendes,
 But Atkinson for other spciall endes
 To Sudbury this jorney then did make,
 His purpose was a True Survay to take,
 And actuall possession of those Landes,
 Which late he purchased at Vernon's handes :
 And courts to keepe in his owne right & name :
 But some of Vernon's frendes y^t heard y^e same,
 Advysed him in nowyse to consent,
 That Atkinson performe his said intent :
 Who this advis'd, intreated Atkinson,
 To be content wth that alreadie done :

Alledginge he should be disgrac'd for ever,
If in that purpose he did still persever.

This strange Request distastefull was indeed,
To Atkinson, and manie doubts did breed,
To see y^t crost w^{ch} was before agreed :
He suffred yet, and yealding to the same,
Left unaffected that for which he came :
Yet thought y^t some was therefore much too blame.
But whyle in Derbyshire he did remayne,
Vernon most kindlie did him entertaine :
And he againe (how ere wthin in doubt,)
Discreetlye made faire weather from wthout.

It would be longe for me to treat of all
The passages y^t after did befall
Betweene them two about these great affaires,
Wherin were spent noe lesse than seaven yeares :
What landes they solde & what they did demyse,
What sumes of money did thereof aryse,
What mortgages they made, what debts they pay,
What meetings and what motions day by day,
For finall endinge and for full conclusion,
To treat at large would make a great confusion.
Wherefore omittinge much, I'le onelie tell
What in y^e later end twixt them befell,
When Vernon had betauen him to a wyffe,
Some yeare and half before he left this lyffe.
And here tis fittinge y^t you understand
He still was in possession of the land :
And took y^e profits and receiv'd y^e rent,
By Atkinson's permission and consent,
Though at y^e first t'was not to his content.

And nowe being married he did seeme much more
Desyrous of an end than ere before :
His wyffe beinge carefull provident and wyse,

To that effect did often him advyse :
 Alledginge unto him if Atkinson
 Should dye as things then stood, they were undone :
 She pray'd him to consider their estate,
 And make an end before it were too late.
 To London then they goe for this intent,
 Much tyme they lost, much money there they spent :
 Though he and Atkinson meete day by day,
 Nothing is done, they use their olde delay :
 For both of them were verie apt y^t way.
 Which she perceavinge brought it soe to passe,
 A day of meetinge twixt them poynted was,
 What tyme by her devyse two frendes* come in,
 Men of great worth & of her husband's kin,
 Who findinge them about this Businesse,
 Doe willinglie therto theimselves addresse :
 And beinge such as could not be refus'd,
 Such faire perwasions and good meanes they used,
 That Atkinson a finall end to make,
 Consented thirtene hundred poundes to take :
 And of the landes to make a good estate
 To him, or such as he should nominate :
 And Vernon therunto did then agree,
 (Which Sum he termed a Gratuitie.)
 Sir Robert Vernon soone their Audit made,
 Whom practise had made expert in y^t trade :
 For longe at Court, in office had he beene,
 To greate Elizabeth then England's Queene :
 Perusinge their Accompts he quicklie founde

* Sir Edward Stanley. Sr. Robert Vernon. [Note in the MS.]

The way in which Sir Edward Stanley and Sir Robert Vernon were "of her husband's kin," will readily be seen on referring to the skeleton pedigree. Sir Robert Vernon, with his cousin Henry, were coheirs, through the Ludlow heiresses, to the estate of Edward, the last Baron Powys. Henry Vernon, his grandmother being the elder sister, petitioned the Crown for the Barony through female descent. His pleadings are of much interest, and are of no small genealogical value, owing to the large number of pedigrees cited showing titles held through a female line (Harl. MSS., 305).

In Atkinson's Receipts five hundred pounde
 And twentie sixe, more then he had defraied :
 Soe that of thirtene hundred to be paid,
 Seaven hundred Seaventie foure did then remaine
 And thus he made their Reckonings straight & plaine.
 Then Articles to this effect he frames,
 To which both parties doe subscribe their names :
 But yet for good respects it was thought best,
 That in his handes those Articles should rest :
 And either partie should a Transcript have
 Therof, w^{ch} unto them next day he gave.
 But Maister Vernon soone himself repented,
 And was at this Accord much discontented.
 The cause (if I mistake it not) was this,
 He thought in conscience he had done amisse,
 In seekinge thus for to reduce the landes
 (By this Agreement made) out of the handes
 Of Atkinson, contrarie to his word
 And Protestation at their first Accord.
 This (I beleeve) his long delays did breed,
 And was y^e cause he did not soe proceed,
 As by those Articles it was agreed,
 For in y^e same a day was limmitted,
 Before y^e w^{ch} thinges should be finished
 But of the same he had soe small respect,
 Both tyme and busines he did quyte neglect :
 Perhaps that Atkinson might soe be free
 From th' Articles to w^{ch} he did agree.

At Upton then in Essex he did lye
 Where he fell sicke, and beinge lyke to dye,
 His wyffe in hast for Atkinson did send,
 (Who ever shew'd himself an honest frende,)
 And promis'd allwaies that he would provyde,
 She should be used well, what ere betyde.
 He came although himself was then not well :
 And into private conference there they fell,

How all things should be order'd and dispos'd
 (For he would not his mynd should be disclos'd
 Till his decease :) And sonne agreed they are,
 That under's hand and seale he should declare
 His mynd and purpose, what he would have done
 After his death by trustie Atkinson.

But well perceavinge that it would fall out,
 They could not doe y^e thinges they were about
 Without assistance of some Clarke therein,
 For Atkinson himself did then begin
 To be more sicklie: Him therefore they take,
 Whose pen thus rudelye this Record did make,
 Him they make privie to their enterpryse,
 Appoyntinge him to write what they devyse:
 Who faythfullye their doings did conceale,
 And wrought therein to manie men's avayle.

Here seemes it not unfittinge to relate,
 How some yeares past an absolute estate
 Of Aston Mannor* and some speciall groundes
 Of yearlie rent above three hundred pounds
 By Atkinson (w^{ch} Vernon so procur'd)
 Unto Sebastian Harvey were assured:
 Who with condition then passed ore the same
 To Bankes & Broughton (Vernon did theim name,
 As frendes in trust for him) To wit, yf they
 Should thirtene hundred pounds to Harvey pay.
 Vernon had paid two hundred of y^t Summe
 And for y^e rest the day was yet to come.
 Besydes one Robert Jackson then did stand
 By mortgage seized of some other lande
 In Mackley, Marston, Waldley, Somershall,†

* A moiety of the manor of Aston, near Stone, was in the Swynnerton family as early as Edward I., and hence came to John Vernon.

† The lands of the four townships mentioned in this line, as well as Rodsley mentioned immediately below, were part of the inheritance of the coheiress of Montgomery, who brought Sudbury to Sir John Vernon.

For divers debts which did amount in all
 Above nine hundred poundes, but most not due
 Until y^e first yeares end that should ensewe
 From Vernon's death. And further at y^t day
 An other Towne called Rodsley mortgaged lay
 To one Ralph Allen of whose debte was founde
 As then arrere above three hundred pounce.

First therfore he desyr'd his honest frende
 That wth these parties he would make an end :
 And satisfye them all y^t should appeare
 Upon their true accompts to be arrere
 And for y^t purpose then did him requyre
 To sell some landes y^t lay in Staffordshire.

Then he appoynted and requyr'd that they
 By good estate these lands should reconvay
 To Atkinson his trustie faythfull frende,
 Whom he had chosen to y^e onelye end
 He might sole seiz'd of all from thenceforth stande
 To th' uses and intents that under's hand
 And seale in wrytinge Vernon should declare
 Wherof to treat in parte I nowe prepare :
 For worthie memorie (me thinkes) they are.

How M^r Vernon appointed his Landes to be assured and dis-
 posed of after his decease, and howe he rewarded his servants, and
 gratified his frendes, ensweth, in parte.

HIS WYFFE.

His greatest care was for his lovinge wyffe,
 To whom at first he gave for terme of lyffe,
 All those faire landes in Broughton & in Bankes
 Which (had he done noe more) deserved thankes,
 Beinge worth (as by his Rentalls did appeare)
 Above three hundred thirtie pounds by yeare.

But this de bene esse first was done,
 Because it hapne'd soe that Atkinson
 Still growing sicklie could no longer stay,
 But home to London gott him thence away :
 Where wth longe sickness he was helde soe sore
 That he to Upton could repaire noe more.
 Yet Vernon with his Servant thought it fitt
 When tyme did serve and better howers permitt
 For to proceede his Landes for to dispose,
 And to Declare what should be done for those
 Poore frends and servants w^{ch} on him depend,
 For whom well to provyde he did intend :
 Wherefore at sundrie tymes as hee thought best
 His whole intent & meaninge he expresst
 To what was past still addinge more and more
 And sometymes alteringe what was done before :
 God of his goodness and especial grace
 To finish all did grant him tyme and space.

In further shewe of love unto his Wyffe
 He also gave to her for terme of lyffe
 Both Sudbury and Mackley wth Okes greene
 And Rodsley too, and all the lands y^t beene
 Thereto belonginge, Savinge onely those
 Hereafter mentioned, w^{ch} he bestowes
 On other frendes. He also for her sake
 And partly for y^o name, such love did take
 Unto her children, as th' had been his owne,
 Which lovinge kindnes he did well make knowne.

HIS WYVES CHILDREN.

Her eldest Sonne whom he did most respect,
 Called Edward Vernon then he did elect
 As heire to all those Landes and Manno^rs faire
 Which unto her for lyfe appoynted were.
 To him and's issue male he then intayled
 Appoyntinge further if such issue fayl'd

(For that to keep ith' name he did intend)
 That then to Thomas Vernon they descend,
 Her second Sonne and to his issue male,
 Whereof if he lykewyse should hap to fayle,
 Then unto Walter yongest of the three,
 And his male issue : but in case that hee
 Should therof fayle, Then will'd he y^t they might
 Discend unto Sir Robert Vernon Knight,
 And his heires male & in default of those,
 To th' heires of Edward doth these lands dispose.

Unto her yonger sonnes he gave lykewise
 His goodes and chattles all, w^{ch} did aryse
 To twentye eight above five hundred pounce,
 As by true Inventorie they were founde.

Next after these it fitteth y^t I place,
 Her daughters twaine, Elizabeth and Grace,
 In token of his love to them he gave
 Fyve hundred pounds & will'd y^t they should have
 It payed to them at Sixtene yeares of age,
 Or els upon their day of marriage.

MR. FRANCIS BUCK.

He also will'd that both the Somersalls
 To's Nephew Francis Buck & his heires males
 Should be assured after her decease :
 Which Buck ere longe unwyselye did release.
 For whyle in Court of Wards this cause defended
 (Not brookinge to forbear till it was ended)
 He made a composition for the same,
 To his great damage and deserved blame :
 And of that faire estate his Uncle left him,
 Himself most unadvysedlye bereft him.

SIR EDWARD STANLEY.

Unto Sir Edward Stanley his kynd frende,
 And his heires male (if God such issue sende)

He then appoynted all his lands that be
 In Waldley, Marchington, Mountgomerie,
 And Marston Woodhouses, But if such fayle,
 To Edward Vernon then wth lyke intayle,
 And soe unto Sir Thomas Gerrard knight,*
 But last to Edward Vernons heires aright.
 Yet in y^e Court of Wards such doubts were founde,
 S^r Edward for his tytle did compound,
 And was content to take three hundred pound
 Upon y^e sale therof: Soe y^t as then
 Some favo^rs might be done two of his ment[†]
 Wherto as when all parties had agreed,
 Then by the Court of Wardes it was decreed,
 That all y^e foresaid lands be sould wth speede.
 And all y^e money y^t were rais'd therby,
 Should be imploy'd y^e debts to satisfye.

MRS. MARGARET BUCK.

He further did declare and signifie
 The profitts of those grounds in Sudburye
 Called Nether Eyes, Oxeclose and Holy Well
 His sister Mrs. Buck als Meverell
 Should yearlye have so long as she should live,
 And further unto her did also gyve
 For better mayntenance a Pension fayre
 Which (for her lyffe) was Twentie pound a yeare.
 But she unrulie and her husband worse
 Were lyke to turne this Blessing to a Curse:
 Such outrages they doe, such Ryotts make,
 And such unlawfull courses they doe take

* Sir Thomas Gerard was a connection. Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Montgomery (sister of Ellen, wife of Sir John Vernon), was married to Sir John Port. The eldest daughter and coheir of this marriage, Elizabeth, became the wife of Sir Thomas Gerard.

† Walter Peerson who had
 XL. marks paid him
 therupon.

William Fernihough who having a Lease
 of his Tenem^t for two lyses had here-
 upon the fee simple. [Note in the MS.]

Had they beene delt wth all as they deserved,
 In miserie and want they might have sterv'd
 I list not treate particularlye here,
 What there lewde words and misdemeano^rs were :
 It seem'd the spyte and envie w^{ch} they had
 Against their brother's wydowe made them mad.
 But she was mylde, for had she not beene soe,
 She easely might have wrought their overthrowe :
 Yet she forgave them : and to end the stryfe,
 A yearly rent of fourtie pounds for lyffe,
 Was granted Mistris Buck : and therwth all,
 The Ferme wherein she dwelt in Somershall.
 Assur'd to her for lyffe, worth little lesse
 Then Twentie poundes a yeare, (as manie ghesse.)

SIR ROBERT VERNON.

Unto S^r Robert Vernon his good frende,
 Who had taen paynes in making such an end
 As is foresaid, twixt him and Atkinson,
 In signe of thankfulnes for kyndnes done,
 (Not that he thought him anie neede to have)
 Tenne poundes a yeare duringe his lyffe he gave.

MR. EDWARD POLE.

To Maister Edward Pole* his kindsman deare,
 Who was his kynd companion manie a yeare,
 And liv'd in House with him at Sudburye,
 He did appoint that there should leased be
 A Ferme in Mackley w^{ch} one Twist possest,
 (Of all y^e Lordship conted for y^e best)
 Duringe y^e terme of fourtie yeares and one,
 At twelve pence rent reserved therupon.

MR. EVERARD, HIS WYFFE, & SONNE.

Unto John Everard and Jane his wyffe,
 And John their sonne successivelye for lyffe,

* We have not been able to ascertain in what way either Edward Pole, or the next named, John Everard, were kinsmen of John Vernon.

He gave two Tenements in Somershall
 And that New Copie in the Wood wth all
 W^{ch} late had beene inclos'd by Harrison
 Reserving but fyve shillings rent theron.
 This Everard had serv'd him hertofore,
 A Gentleman by birth, and (w^{ch} was more)
 His godsonne, and his kindsman then growen poore.

MR. CROSBYE. MR. VENABLES.

Crosbye * and Venables, two gentlemen,
 The first his kindsman, both old servants then,
 To eyther of them he appoynted there,
 The sūme of twentie Nobles by y^e yeare
 Duringe their lyves, and after did decree,
 To Crosbye's sonne, his Syre's annuitie.

PETER POLLETT.

One Peter Pollett who was borne in France
 And came to him a lackey-boy by chance,
 He in his lyffe tyme fairlie did advance.
 And by his Declaration nowe requyres,
 Two Fermes in Rodsley (w^{ch} he held for yeares)
 Should be convey'd to him and to his heires
 For ever : and to better his estate
 He will'd that certayne grounds there seitate
 Call'd Baylie Closes should assured be
 To him for one and fowrtie yeares rent free.

JOHN OLIVER ALS PATRICK.

John Oliver whom Pattrick he did name,
 For Countries sake, when he from Ireland came
 Was first his Footboy whom he afterward
 Affected well and had in good regard :
 To him and John his sonne successivelie
 He gave for lyffe y^t Ferme in Sudburye.

* Dorothy Swynnerton, sister of Thomas Swynnerton, and great-aunt of Margaret, the mother of John Vernon, married Mr. Crosby, of Stafford.

Wherein he dwelt : And added to y^e same
 These sev^rall groundes y^t followed here by name :*
 Bean Croft & Calver-croft & two they call
 Stubbridginge and High-field, in Mackley all.
 Then y^e Hall Orchard & the Cunningree,
 Both w^{ch} were situate in Sudburye.
 He added over & besydes these grounds
 That he should have a Pension of ten poundes
 To him paid yearlye for y^e terme of lyffe,
 And after his decease unto his wyffe,
 And John his sonne y^t Pension should remayne,
 And to y^e longer lyver of them twaine.

WILLIAM FERNIHOUGH.

To William Fernihough then did he give
 To have and holde as long as he should live
 Of meadowe ground one acre, and to pay
 A rose for rent, on S^t John Baptist's day.

WALTER PEERSON.

He also will'd for Walter Peerson's good,
 That Tenem^t which standeth in the Wood
 Wherein he dwelt—High Ashes call'd by name
 Should be to him assur'd and with y^e same
 An Acre which wth in Brode meadowe lyes,
 For one and twentie yeares, or otherwyse
 Until y^e full terme of three lyves were spent,
 Yealdinge a red rose yearlie for his rent.

HENRY HYDE. AGNES HYDE.

On Henry Hyde & Agnes Hyde his wyffe,
 To have and holde to them for terme of lyffe,
 These groundes ensewinge then he did bestowe :
 The Fernie Patch, y^e Hooke, & Ledderslowe,

* Of the Sudbury field-names, mentioned here and in the following bequests, a few survive to the present time, viz., Bean Piece, Long Close, and the Hooks.

The Lane so term'd, y^e Ridd, & y^t they call
 Longe Close at Derby Lane to them befall :
 And for all these he did appoint y^t they
 One shilling yearly for their rent should pay.

JOHN PARKES.

John Parkes y^e Bayliffe of his husbandrie
 Who serv'd him longe and lived thriftlie.
 Two Tenements in Waldley did possesse,
 But for what terme I cannot well expresse :
 Which he enlarged then to foure-score yeares,
 Reservinge but th' old rent unto the heires.

THOMAS STOKE.

Olde Thomas Stoke of Hylton as befell,
 This tyme of sicknes did attend him well,
 And well it hapt for him he there attended,
 Whereby ere long his state was well amended.
 For by y^e declaration it appeares
 That for three lyves or one and twentie yeares
 His Tenem^t in Hylton he should have,
 And for lyke terme to him he also gave
 A Close in Essington, Bursnaps by name
 Yealdinge y^e auncient rents due for y^e same.

MICHAELL HEAPE. JOHN SAULT. VERNON TURTON.

Four poundes a yeare to Michaell Heape he gave :
 And will'd John Sault fyve marks should yearly have.
 To Vernon Turton who his name did beare,
 He fourtie shillings did appoint by yeare :
 And will'd these pensions be to them made sure,
 That for their sev'all lyves they might endure.

DIVERS SERVANTS.

He will'd there should be paid within a yeare,
 To div's servants as enseweth here :

Fyve Poundes unto Joyce Marshall & lyke sūme
 To Margaret Plimer by his guift should come.
 Emme Fenton fourtie shillinges should receive,
 To Ellen Abell he lyke sūme did leave,
 Joane Palmer had as much & Susan Downe,
 Who had in lewe thereof, a Mourninge Gowne.
 Anthony Hyde had fourtie shillings payd,
 As much to Humphry Gellyve was defraid.

POORE OF SUDBURVE.

He further shew'd it was his full intent,
 There should be granted out a yearlie rent
 For ever : w^{ch} should issue equallye
 From Marston Lordship & from Sudburve
 And y^t the same should be distributed
 To such poore people as inhabited
 The later of these Lordships now rehers't
 But y^t Decree was afterwards reversed :
 Yet there was granted out to this intent
 For ever to endure, a yearlie rent
 Of Twentie nobles paid them quarterly
 W^{ch} issues onelie out of Sudburie.*

* Against the west wall of the addition to the north aisle of Sudbury Church is a tablet bearing the following interesting inscription as to John Vernon's bequests to the poor :—

“Amongst the many memorablie good acts performed and executed by the will and appoyntment of that worthy Gentleman John Vernon Esq whose body is here interred there was given and granted to bee issuing yearley out of the Mannor of Sudbury a rent charge of sixe pounds thirteene shillings fourepence unto sixe parishioners that is to say unto Edward Banks Thomas Banks William Allin Richard Scatergood John Turton and Thomas Witherings and to their Heires and assignes for ever to the use maintenance and reliefe of the poore inhabitants of this Parish payable yearley to them or some of them at Sudbury Hall, at the feasts of Easter, Pentecost, All Saints and Christmas by even portions, the first payment whereof was to be gin and soe did accordingly at Easter one thousand sixe hundred and nine with a clause of distresse upon any part of the Mannor aforesaid, if the same be unpaid by the space of ten dayes after any of the said feasts beinge Lawfully demanded at the place aforesaid to be distributed accordinge to the direction and appoyntment of Mistris Mary Vernon widow during her life, and after her desease to the direction of Edward Vernon Esq her sonn and of his Heires for Ever this Grant made by Indenture tripartite is dated the first day of June 1608 and

JOHN HARESTAFFE.

John Harestaffe had taen paines in his affaires,
 Sollicitinge his causes manie yeares :
 He did assist in this last businesse
 And writt all downe his Maister did expresse
 Amongst y^e rest a Ferme to him befell
 In Rodsley where one Sherwin then did dwell
 Whose Lease above eight yeares was unexpyr'd :
 This Tenement his Maister then requyr'd
 To Harestaffe and his heires should be convey'd
 For ever. W^{ch} although it was gain-said
 At first, yet after was it soe assur'd
 To recompence his travayles longe endured.

MR. ATKINSON.

Lastlye to Atkinson his faithfull frend
 (Besydes y^e Sume agreed on for their end)
 He gave sixe hundred pounds, If soe y^e he
 Did execute these things accordinglye.
 Which he accepted of with good content
 And to performe y^e same gave full consent.
 After that he had all things thus disposed :
 One doubt possest him (w^{ch} he then disclos'd)
 Touchinge his brother's daughter then in ward,
 To doe for whom he never tooke regard.
 He did suspect when he was dead & gone,
 Her tytles would breed troubles, wherupon
 Unto y^e Court of Wards he did direct
 A faire Certificat to this effect :

was sealed and delivered and seisin given in the presence of Master Thomas Vernon Master Walter Vernon, Robert Warner and John Harestaffe who of his own Coste and Charges procured the same to be inrolled in the Chancery the 21 day of May in the 7th yeare of the raigne of the late King Charles as appears in the last w^{ill} and Testament of the sayd John Harestaffe proved in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield the 26th day of December 1646."

They would be pleas'd from him to understand,
 He never did intend her foot of 's lande
 Nor grotesworth of his goods : because that he
 By meanes of her endur'd much injurie
 In suites and troubles under faire pretence,
 To do her right, w^{ch} did him much offence :
 He humblie pray'd that after his decease,
 They would permit his frendes to live in peace,
 Whom he had laste bestow'd his lands upon,
 And not to worke their molestation.
 To this he sett his seale and writ his name
 With Witnesses to testifye the same.

When he had done his worldie businesse,
 Himself to heaven he whollie did addresse :
 Ere longe his houre of Death approchinge nie
 His latest words were prayers to God on hie,
 Into whose handes his soule he did comende
 And makinge soe a good and godlie end,
 As one in quiet sleepe some howers he past,
 And calmye yielded up his breath at last.
 Th' eyght of Julye ith' sixteenth hundred yeare
 From Christ his blessed birth (our Savio' deare.)

Most frendes advys'd his bodie to interre,
 At some nere place, as Paules or Westminster :
 His mournfull wyffe in noe wyse would consent
 Thereto : because it was her full intent,
 He should in such a place interred be,
 Where after death herself might also lye.
 She therefore caus'd his bodie be prepar'd
 And drest wth odo's sweete noe cost she spar'd
 His Bowells to Westham* were first convey'd
 And in the Parish Church there buried :

* We have inquired if there is any record at West Ham of this partial interment, but the vicar, Rev. Canon Scott, informs us that the registers only commence in 1653

And then his Corpes with full solemnitie
 To her greate charge were brought to Sudbury
 And lye interr'd wth in a Chappell there
 As by y^e Monument may well appeare
 Which she erected to his memorie
 As soone as she had opportunitie.*

* Against the north wall of the Vernon chapel of the Parish Church of Sudbury is a handsome marble monument to the memory of John Vernon and Mary his wife. The effigy of the husband, in late plate armour, with a small ruff round the neck and wearing a pointed beard, lies under an arch, and beneath it, on a projecting table-tomb, is the effigy of the wife. On the upper part of the monument is the sixteen quartered coat of Vernon impaling the four quartered coat of Littleton:—(1) Vernon, (2) Avenell, (3) Duversal, (4) Camville, (5) Stackpole, (6) Pembrugge, (7) Vernon, with a canton, (8) Pype, (9) Treanton, (10) Hodnet, (11) Spenor, (12) Montgomery, (13) old Montgomery, (14) Swynnerton, (15) Swynnerton, within a bordure engrailed, (16) Bond,—impaling (1) Westcote, (2) Littleton, (3) Quartermayne, (4) Bretton. (The right to these quarterings is fully explained in *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 22; vol. iii., 321-2). At the east end of the tomb are the four Littleton coats on a lozenge, and at the west end Vernon impaling Littleton. On the face of the monument are the two following inscriptions:—

“Here lyeth the bodye of John Vernon Esquier the sonne of Henry Vernō sonne of Sr Jōh Vernō knight and of Hellen one of the daughters & co-heires of Sir John Montgomery by the which Hellen the mannor of Sudburie and dyvers other lordshippes & landes lineallie descended unto the said John Vernon who deceased at Upton in the Countie of Essex the 8th day of July anno dni 1600 ffrom whence his bodie was convayed & here interred and this monument erected by Mary his wyffe daughter to Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton hall in the Countie of Staff knighte.”

“Here is interred ye bodie of Mary daughter of Sr Edw Littleō wife first to Walter Vernon of Houndhill Esq to whom she bare 5 sonns and 4 daughters. After 7 years wydowhood she married John Vernon of Sudbury Esq. whose lands (formly past away for his redemption being enthrauled for his friends by suertiship) were by her prudent endeavours redeemed and brought to his disposing who (havinge noe issue himself) appointed the Lordships of Sudbury and Aston with their members to her for life remainder to her 3 sonns (then livinge) and their heirs male successively. And when many assurances leases rent-charges annuities and guifts were by him appointed to frends tenants servants and the poore which great adversaries did oppose she (as a vertuous patronesse to them) with great care & travel and at her own proper charges maintained their cause against their adversaries and brought the same to good effect to the great benefits of them all. Such was her charitie and vertuous mind she built a mannor house at Sudbury; she contributed largely to the maintaineinge of this church; she gave by will x li to ye poor of the parish and xx nobles to ye poore of Marchington and rewards to every servant. And having lived vertuous matrone 22 years in her later widowhood maintaineinge good hospitalite to the daily releefe of ye poore she willingly and in godly manner exchanged this life for a better the 17 day of Dec. 1622 in ye 62 year of her age. To whose memorie her eldest sonne Edward Vernon Esq. caused this monument to be erected.”

But at y^t time her cheefest care of all
 Was to provyde a comlie Funerall.*
 Therefore wth speede great store of Blacks were brought
 For mourninge weedes. Then Heraulds out were sought
 And waged well this Businesse for to speede
 Which was performed worthilie indeede,
Hen. Lont. Wm. Segar.
 By Windsor Herauld, and by Norrey Kinge,
 The Twelft of August then next followinge :
 Upon w^{ch} day was held at Sudburye
 For him a great and solemn obscuie.

Of the Troubles of MRS. MARY VERNON
 Wydowe after her husband's decease, enseweth
 in parte.

Scarce finish't was his Funerall and past,
 But troubles newe began w^{ch} long did last.
 For Justice Townshend quickly went about
 (Accordinge as this dead man late did doubt)
 To crosse his purposes and wronge his frends
 (Though rightinge of the Ward he still pretends.)
 By Information first he did declare
 In Court of Wardes how cleare her tytles are :
 That she is brother's daughter and next heire
 To all her Uncles landes the case is cleare :
 And by y^e helpe of Wakeringe gott anone,
 (Though out of Ferme) a strict Injunction,
 Comaundinge all the Tenants not to pay
 Their rents upon y^e next S^t Michaell's day,
 Nor thenceforth, till y^e Court should order take,
 Unto whose hands they should such paym^t make.
 By Privie Seale they call y^e Wydowe then,
 With Atkinson, and him that did this pen :

* The funeral certificates of the College of Arms have been searched, but the account of the officially conducted funeral of John Vernon is unfortunately missing.

Broughton & Banks lykewyse and other moe,
 Which in this cause had aine thinge to doe :
 And by Injunction straitly them comaund
 To alter noe estate of aine lande
 W^{ch} at that tyme remained in their hand.

Then they suggest against the foremost three,
 They had combyn'd together cunninglie,
 Contryvyng to themselves in secresie
 Dyvers estates, against all equitie
 Intendinge to defraud the Ward of all
 Which by her Uncle's death to her did fall :
 And manie other things they doe suggest,
 To little purpose here to be exprest,
 All w^{ch} by these Defendants readilie
 Upon their oaths were answer'd faithfullie
 As they concerned them respectivelie.
 Then certaine cunninge questions they devyse,
 T' intrappe them if they could in aniewyse,
 Intergatories clarks such questions call,
 Which lykewyse on their oaths they answer'd all.

Some three & twentie were y^e wydowes taske,
 And Harstaffe fyve and fiftie they did aske,
 But Atkinson examin'd was to more
 Which were but onlie three short of four score,
 Whose Answers and their Depositions all
 Agreeinge in one truth, gave comfort small
 Unto their Opposites. Yet they goe on,
 Workinge all meanes of molestation.
 Therby to make a fearfull woman yealde,
 And be unable such a cause to wield :
 Knowinge her debtes alreadye were not small,
 For charges of her husband's funerall.
 And for to further this their bad intent,
 They had alreadye barr'd her of the rent

Enforcinge her to borrowe upon band,
For to maintaine this cause newe tain in hand.

Besydes daies of great paym^{ts} then drew nere
To Harvey and to Jackson, landes to cleare
And wheras for y^t purpose dyvers landes
In Staffordshire (w^{ch} then were in the handes
Of Atkinson) were poynted to be sould,
That by Injunction latelye was controul'd.

These were sore crosses to begin wthall,
Yet manie more did shortlie her befall :
To treat of all would be a taske too greate,
It shall suffyce some part here to repeate :
Because to wryte at full her greate distresse,
(And her faire carriage therin to expresse)
Requyres a worthier pen I doe confesse.

Such and soe greate her troubles some were growne,
That most men thought her state quyte overthrowne
The Tenants all or most did her forsake
And with her adversaries part did take :
Manie of those whose right she did defend
Against her whollye did their forces bende :
And others on whose fredship she did grounde
Did now in tyme of tryall prove unsounde
Yea some whom blood & nature should have bounde.
But Atkinson prov'd constant to the end,
On whom her chiefest hopes did then depend
He shew'd himself a faythfull trustie frende,
And he was faythfull too that this hath pen'd,
The one with fayre advyse did her assiste,
The others care and paynes could not be mist,
They comfort her and still her hopes confirme,
And in the end of Michaellmas longe terme
(In w^{ch} the Playntiffs first this suite did move
And had proceeded as is said above)

She did attempt by way of motion
 For to dissolve the first Injunction :
 That she might gett y^e rents & therwthall
 Discharge such debtes as for y^e Funerall
 Of her late husband she stood bounde to pay :
 To w^{ch} the Court made answer wthout stay
 That since Sir Robert Cecill* was away,
 (Who then beinge Maister did not sitt y^t day,)
 They might not it dissolve for feare of blame
 Because himself had granted out y^e same
 Who thenceforth sate no more whyle terme did last
 Soe y^t untill y^e next all hope seem'd past.
 And thereupon she was a little mov'd
 That this attempt had then nor better prov'd :
 But Harestaffe will'd her not to be dismay'd
 When one way fay'd, other must be assayed
 And quicklie did a short Petition frame,
 Advysinge her she should prefer y^e same
 Unto the Maister of y^e Court with speede,
 Which she performinge, thereof did succede
 Such good event, as comforted her well :
 And though it be an idle thinge to tell
 Ech circumstance thereof as it befell
 Yet since I now have store of idle tyme,
 Although but harsh and forced be my ryme,
 I'lle borrowe leave to treate therof a whyle,
 To please myself, and idle houres beguyle.

* This mention of Sir Robert Cecil, the scheming favourite of the latter days of Elizabeth, and of the early days of James, is of much interest. The subsequent realistic touches of Mistress Vernon winning the favour of a chamber groom to place her in an inner room of the Master's Lodgings, instead of in the lobby; of two other grooms lighting a fire earlier than usual in the season, and receiving four shillings for their attention; and of Harestaffe directing the dame "to knowe this greate man by his stature small," are very charming, when we consider the figure round whom they centre, and who had so much to do with the making of English history. Sir Robert Cecil was the youngest son of William Cecil, Lord Burleigh. He was Secretary of State 1596-1609; in 1599 he was appointed Master of the Court of Wards, "the most lucrative office held by any subject throughout Christendom;" created Earl of Salisbury in 1605; and died in 1612. From Sir Robert Cecil, the present Marquis of Salisbury is directly descended.

The Court lay at Whitehall and thither shee
 Went wth her sister* in her companie,
 And Atkinson her ever constant frende,
 Harestaffe and other servants them attend :
 But by y^e way hapt such an accident,
 As Atkinson's assistance did prevent :
 Yet went she on, in hope some good to win,
 Although her cheefe assistant fayl'd herein
 She was desyrous for to putt in tryall
 This newe attempt, since worst was but denyall.
 And cominge to y^e Court for this intent
 Unto the Maister's Lodgings straight she went :
 He was not there whom she came to intreate
 Yet in the Lobbie manie Sutors waite,
 And wish for his retorne. Where them amonge
 These Gentlewomen had not stayed longe
 Ere that by favo^r of a chamber groome
 They were admitted to an inner roome :
 (Where as it seem'd the Maister us'd to heare
 The Sutors y^t did unto him repaire.)
 Two Groomes because y^e weather then was colde
 Did sooner make their fyres than els they would
 To pleasure them, for w^{ch} their kind regard,
 They did receive foure shillings for reward.

It chanced y^t whyle here she did attende,
 One Maister Ferrers† (who was both her frend
 And kinsman nere) cam him‡ and did salute her,
 And then inquir'd if she was there as Sutor

* Lady Repington. [Note in MS.]

Sir John Repington, of Amington, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Littleton, of Pillaton Hall.

† Richard Littleton, the first of Pillaton Hall, was the second son of Judge Littleton (ob. 1481); his sister Ellen was married to Edward Ferrers, of Tamworth. Richard Littleton was great-greatgrandfather of Mistress Vernon, but we know of no more recent alliance that could make her akin to any Ferrers.

‡ *Sic*, query, "came in."

What was her cause and who for her made way
 She breeflie tould her cause wthout delay:
 But as for makinge way, she there had none
 But God and a good cause to trust upon.
 He shooke his head as though he would expresse
 She had not taen right course for good sucresse
 And seeminge sorrie for her great distresse
 Gave her cold comfort in her businesse.
 That day y^e Maister had in counsell beene,
 And rysinge thence, was gone up to the Queene.
 He was cheefe Secretaire at that day,
 And in affaires of State bare all the sway:
 The tyme runne on and candles nowe were light
 And day had given place unto the night:
 His cominge in ech minute was expected,
 Then she by Harestaffe quicklie was directed,
 To knowe this greate man by his stature small,
 And by his entringe in y^e first of all:
 For why, as yet she never had him seeme
 Nor till that tyme had she a sutor beene:
 He will'd her therefore nere y^e dore to stand,
 With her Petition readie in her hande,
 And y^t so soone as in y^e roome he came,
 She should not fayle to offer him y^e same:
 Attended wth great troupes he came anon,
 And gentlie took her supplication,
 Which then imediatelye without more stay,
 He did peruse in order as it lay:
 And turninge unto her attendinge nie,
 Why Mistris Vernon would you have (quoth he)
 Me to dissolve nowe an Injunction,
 Out of the terme upon Petition?
 That nere was heard of. She (God wot) was mute.
 But Harestaffe (who sollicitid this sute)
 With humble reverence then for her reply'd,
 If't please your Hono^r she y^e Courte hath try'd,

By motion in y^e terme to get releefe,
 But therunto she answer'd was in breefe,
 That this Injunction was from thence awarded
 Upon yo^r speciall warrant, w^{ch} regarded,
 They might not it dissolve for feare of blame :
 And true it is you granted out y^e same
 Before the terme, ith' longe vacation,
 Upon their private information.
 I'le prove if this be true he answer'd then,
 And callinge presentlie for inke and pen,
 He writt unto th' Attorney of y^e Court,
 To certifye him by his true Report :
 This he indors'd upon her Petition
 And gave the same to Harestaffe, therupon
 Comaunding him y^t he should beare y^e same
 Unto th' Attorney, Hesketh (then by name)
 And that when he had certified therto,
 He bringe it back to him y^t he may knowe,
 What in this cause most fittinge is to doe.
 And then to her most courteously he spake
 Requiringe y^t from thenceforth she should take
 No further paynes herself in this affaire,
 But let her servant unto him repaire :
 Who should have free accesse for y^t intent,
 So humblie gyvinge thanks away she went,
 Beinge well encourag'd by his curtesie,
 And restinge in some hope of equitie.

As was comaunded Harestaffe did resort
 Unto th' Attorney for his true report,
 And gave to him the said Petition
 But founde not here lyke expedition.
 For Justice Townshend was his ancient frende,
 Wherefore his adversaries must attende,
 And wayte his leasure, come another day
 And then lykewyse be answer'd with delay :

Yet at y^e last (though but wth evill will)
 He certified (his duties to fulfill)
 Upon y^e said Petition under's hande,
 That it was true y^t soe the case did stand :
 The Maister seeinge him y^e same confirme,
 Did then appoynt first Tewesdaie of next terme
 To heare this cause, touchinge receipt of rent
 Which gave the said Defendants some content.

Much toyle and troubles greate she did sustaine
 In travellinge to termes & home agayne :
 Longe winter jorneyes were for her unfitt,
 Had not necessitie enforced it,
 But to all Fortunes she herself did frame,
 Past expectation bearinge out the same.
 Whyle she at home ith' Cuntrie did abyde,
 He said Sollicitor did there provyde
 A newe Petition, w^{ch} should be preferr'd
 Unto the Maister when y^e cause was heard,
 This Supplication, generall he frames,
 Subscrybed wth some foure and twentie names
 Of such old servants and such other frendes,
 Whose onelie welfare on this cause dependes.
 The Terme approc'ht, for London she prepares,
 When she had order taen for home affaires.
 S^r Edward Littleton her brother went
 To London wth her onelye of intente
 For to assist her : But it fell out soe,
 In stead of helpe, he wrought her further woe,
 Which ere I doe declare I meane to tell,
 Of other cumbers that to her befell
 W^{ch} should by order first have been declar'd
 Had I not meant that labour to have spar'd
 As deeminge them to be of lesse regard.

Yet since the lesser seeme to have relation,
 To greater y^t ensew'd in worsen fashion

I'le bungle them together as I may
 Lesse reckoninge method, soe y^t truth I say.

Some yeare & more before her husband dyed
 For three yeares terme he fullye had agreed
 Wth Clement Austyn* (most unworthile)
 Then Rector of y^e Church of Sudburye,
 Both for y^e Parsonage house y^e Tythes and all
 The profitts w^{ch} within the terme should fall.
 This Parsonage had continued in his handes,
 Since first he entred on his fathers landes :
 Who held y^e same before for manie a yeare,
 Contentinge those y^t were Incumbents there
 Th^t Advowson beinge theirs they did present
 Such Clarkes as yearlie Stipends did content
 Both sonne and Father kept good house thereon,
 (For other dwellinge place there had they none.)
 There did this Vernon keep his Sherifaltie,
 And did mayntayne good hospitalitie
 Duringe his lyffe : for though himself elsewhere
 Did somtymes live, his household still kept there.

This sorie Clement whom he had preferr'd
 As soone as he was dead himself bestir'd
 He would no longer to his bargaine stand,
 But he would have possession out of hande.

She who misdoubted his inconstancie
 Had sent downe Francis Buck to Sudburye
 Sir Edward Littleton was there lykewyse,
 Suspectinge y^t some troubles would aryse.
 Ere longe into y^e house y^e Parson came,
 Demaunding then possession of the same :

* In 1563, Henry Vernon presented William Washington to the rectory of Sudbury; W. Washington was succeeded in the rectory by Clement Austyn, on the presentation of John Vernon, but the year of Austyn's institution cannot be discovered, as there are neither episcopal nor parochial registers for the latter part of Elizabeth's reign.

They spake him faire and wisht him rest content,
 Till she came downe : wherto he gave consent.
 Harestaffe had writt to him to that effect,
 But shortlie their advyse he did neglect :
 And through ill counsell thither came againe,
 And will they nill they thither would remayne.
 But Buck could not abyde to suffer that
 But out of doores perforce he threwe him flatt.

When she came downe unto him she did send
 Desyringe him that he would not contend,
 Protestinge y^t she meant not him to wronge,
 Nor would requyre to hold the Parsonage longe :
 Nor yet would on her husbands bargaine stande ;
 But for there was noe house upon y^e lande
 Soe fitt as that, wherin she might remayne,
 Against her foes, possession to maintayne,
 She must of force continewe there a season
 And for y^e same would gyve him what was reason.

Tut, he would have noe reason, nor agree
 She should on anie termes his fermer be,
 Or there abyde : for he was link'd wth those,
 Who shortlie after did themselves disclose
 Though neere allyed, to be her spytefull foes.

When she p'ceaved this she tould him plaine,
 That her possession there she would mayntaine
 And for what wronge she did him, would abyde
 The Judges censure y^t should it decyde.

Soone after this Corn-harvest tyme was come,
 And sorie Clement (to be troublesome)
 To gather some tyth corne would needs assay,
 When Francis Buck and's man came by that way :
 What wordes amongst them past I cannot tell,
 Buck's man and he by theares together fell,

And prov'd themselves such Maisters of defence,
That both with bloodie pates departed thence.

This accident offended her soe sore,
She will'd her servants loose y^e corne, before
Such braules were made about it anie more.

The Parson thought great vantage to have won
When as the blood about his eares did run,
Exclayming what great outrage had beene done.
And for he would the matter aggravate,
He went alonge wth this his bloodie pate
Well nere a myle, and there upon the way
As faint wth losse of blood, he made a stay
Of purpose (doubtlesse) and an evill mynd,
That so a stranger then not far behind
In such tru-seeming daunger might him fynd
Who p'adventure thinking all was truth,
Brought him to towne and tooke of him greate ruth,
Soe hansomlye y^e priest did counterfet
Hoping therby some vantage he should gett :
This furnish't him of matter to complayne,
W^{ch} lowd he threats he'll now pursue amaine
To London then he hyes for this intent,
And to y^e grave Archbyshop Whitguift* went,
Complaininge unto him what mightie wronge
And foule abuse was done him them amonge :

* Why Rector Austyn should carry his case to the Archbishop rather than to his own diocesan, Bishop Overton of Coventry and Lichfield, is at first sight puzzling? But in those days it was always considered of supreme importance to have personal knowledge of, or a good introduction to one in power. Now Archbishop Whitgift, when Bishop of Worcester, was made Vice-President of Wales, and in the absence of the Lord President (Sir Henry Sydney), took practical direction of affairs. He would then be, of necessity, brought much into contact with Townshend, as Justice of Chester; and if, as seems certain, Justice Townshend was at the bottom of Rector Austyn's litigiousness, the reason why personal appeal should be made to the Archbishop becomes obvious. It is interesting to recollect that one grand result of Archbishop Whitgift's connection with Wales and the Marches was the issuing of Morgan's translation of the Scriptures into Welsh.

To make faire tale he somtyme spar'd y^e sooth,
His labour had beene lost, had he tould truth.

The grave and learned Metropolitan,
(It seem'd) gave noe great credit to the man :
Yet lovinge Justice, and still favouringe right,
He writt his letters to th'accused Knight
And sent the Priest's Petition to y^e same,
Requyringe him if there were cause of blame,
Such reformacon might be had therfore,
That lyke complaynts should need be made no more.
Sir Edward then himself for to discharge,
By letters did informe his Grace at large
The truth of these affaires. And of this case
Did Atkinson lykewise informe his Grace :
Who was his Patrone, & to whom ere longe
The Parson came complayninge of his wronge :
Who checkt him foule for keepinge such a coyle,
In that wherein himself would have the foyle :
Advysinge him to frame himselfe to peace
Wherby both frendes and wealth he might increase.
The fickle headed fellowe then gave eare,
Unto his wordes and admonitions faire :
And promis'd resolutely he would stand
Unto such ende as by his Patrones hande
Should be sett downe betwene them for all things
And cominge home his Patrones letters bringes,
To her directed in his comendation
Requyringe he be us'd in frendlie fashion,
And of this Reference makeinge faire relation.
She promis'd also to abyde the same :
Which shortlie after with his letters came,
To this effect : That she should have the thinge,
And pay all charges thereout issuinge :
Allowinge him his chamber and his fyer,
His horse-grasse too when he should it desyre,

And for his maintenance (a Pension faire)
 The Sume of two and thirtie poundes a yeare :
 She was content : although it was much more,
 Then he or anie other had before.*
 But then S^r Domine had chang'd his mynde,
 For he was even as constant as the wynde.
 He had of late been drinkinge at a Poolet[†]
 Whose secreat workinge caused him play the foole :
 His Patrones order he would not abyde
 Nor yeald to it whatere should him betyde
 Wherefore awhyle I'le lay the foole asyde :
 And since my leasure serves, I will not spare,
 An other yonge mans follies to declare.
 The man I mean was Maister Francis Buck
 Who might have done full well but had ill luck :
 What good his uncle meant him is declared,
 How much his aunt esteemed him afterward,
 And how she lov'd him she did well make knowne,
 By usinge him alyke unto her owne :
 Provydinge soe that nothinge he did lack,
 Crownes in his purse, faire clothinge on his back,
 Who but her Cozen Buck? cheefe at her table,
 Two Geldings she allowed him in her stable :
 His man and boy, all at her charge mayntayn'd
 And by her favo^r then he also gain'd
 Present possession of a Tenement
 In Somershall w^{ch} was of yearlie rent
 Worth twentie marks. Thus kyndly she him us'd :
 But all her kyndnes shortlie he refused :
 Belyke in doubt her business would miscarie ;
 Or by inticement of some adversarie :
 A verie sleight occasion he did take
 His aunt in great displeasure to forsake :

* The annual value of Sudbury Rectory is given in the *Va. or Ecclesiasticus* (27 Henry VIII), as £14 13s. 1d.

† Edw. Poole the Elder. [Note in the MS.]

Because forsooth only for one nights space,
 His horses did not keepe their wonted place,
 By reason of some straungers cominge there,
 Though in an other roome well plac'd they were.
 And therupon he joynd himself with those
 Who were her opposites, and spytefull foes :
 With whom awhyle he practiz'd her to wronge,
 But found great change of pasture, them amonge,
 And mist his Aunts allowance ere 'twas longe.
 Not brookinge such a change, nor to live soe,
 To serve beyond Sea he resolv'd to goe
 Wherefore unto his Aunt he came againe,
 To London, whereat she did then remayne,
 Requestinge her good favor to obtayne,
 And further that she would not him denye,
 To wryte in his behalf to (her Allye)
 S^r William Browne Lieutenant Governo^r
 Of Flushing*, that she would the rather for
 Her sake preferre him unto some good place.
 All w^{ch} she granted him : And in lyke case
 Did furnish him with money for his neede,
 And wish't him in his journey well to speede.

This kyndnes eftsoones unto him she shew'd
 For's uncle's sake : Though his ingratitude
 But lately she had prov'd. Nowe who would weene
 Soe great unthankfulnes should ere be seene
 In anie man, as shortlie he did shewe ?
 I am abash't to wryte it (though most true)
 For scarce of Flushing had he taken vewe,
 But back to England he return'd againe,
 Whether of 's owne accord, or by the meane
 And lewde procurement of her Adversaries,
 I wott not well : But little whyle he taries

* Flushing, an important haven of the isle of Walcheren, was yielded to Elizabeth by the States of the United Provinces.

Ere that he came againe to Sudburie,
 Where havinge gather'd much lewde companie,
 Gainst whom she nere comitted anie fault
 With open force they did her House assault.

THE GREATE RYOTT.

Some frends and servants did y^e house defend,
 Against them certaine howers, but in the end
 The Ryotters (increasinge more and more
 Well nere unto the number of three score,)
 Did break the house, and thrust them out of doore.
 He would not suffer anie one to stay,
 Nor carrie anye of her goods away :
 Nay scarce theire owne apparell y^t was there,
 He was fierce, and did soe domineere,
 Anon his mother came to him wth speede,
 Who was a cheefe procurer of this deede :
 The Revelles then began : They make good cheare,
 They founde y^e house well stor'd wth bread & beare,
 Beef, mutton, bacon, all things els besyde,
 W^{ch} good housekeepers use for to provyde ;
 They frolick wth their frendes, & make noe spare,
 But lash out that for w^{ch} they nere tooke care.
 Nor did these good housekeepers here make stay,
 But secretly some goodes convey'd away
 From thence by night, such was their pollicie
 Wherein they did comitt flatt felonie.
 Great havock here they make a whole weeks space,
 Untill such tyme there came unto the place
 Two Justices their forces to remove,
 As by due course of lawe did then behove :
 But Mistris Buck was gott away from thence,
 Leavinge her Sonne therin to make defence,
 Who wth some dozen more y^t there remain'd
 Against y^e Justices the force maintained

Pretendinge he had tittle to the House
 By Maister's Parson's lease (not worth a louse)
 The Justices did frendlie him advyse,
 But their authoritie he did despise,
 And stoutlie them wth stood : who therupon
 For more assistance sent abroad anon :
 And when night came besett the house wth watch
 Then to the Sheriffe* their letters they dispatch,
 Requyring his assistance in this case,
 Who came next day in person to the place,
 With Posse Comitatus in their ayde,
 Where after Proclamation he assay'd
 With gentle wordes this will-full man to win,
 Declaringe then what daunger he stood in.
 But he stood off longe tyme : yet in y^e end
 He yealded (by persuasion of a frende)
 Unto y^e Sheriffe, and open'd them y^e dore
 Who entringe, founde within y^e house noe more
 But him and's man, (the rest were fledde before :)
 Both whom into his charge the Sheriffe did take,
 And (as y^e case requyr'd) did Prisoners make :
 And soe I'le leave them till the next Assyzes,
 To answer then for these lewde enterpryzes.

Who all the losse and damage did sustaine,
 And nowe I will returne to her againe,
 Whyle she herself in London did remaine :
 'Tis not within my knowledge what she lost,
 But well I wott it was noe litle coste
 W^{ch} she was all whyle all this sturre was here,
 For she all charge, for man and horse did beare :
 Wherof there were such numbers here that day,
 That some have term'd it Noddie Feild† they say.

* Sir Francis Leake, of Kirk Hallam.

† "Noddie Feild" seems to be a proverbial or cant expression; we can only conjecture that it may mean the field or assembly of many empty heads.

It was soone after Hillarie Terme begun
 When newes were brought to her what Buck had done,
 Howe he had broke her house, and seiz'd of all,
 And turned her servants out both great and small.
 These newes she did receave on fryday night,
 Imagine then she was in carefull plight :
 The Tewesdaie followinge should her cause be heard,
 Whether she should have rents, or be debarr'd ;
 These to a woman were noe burthens small,
 Yet chanc't betwixt these two y^e great'st of all.
 S^r Edward Littleton as is foresaid,
 Was come up of purpose onlie her to ayde,
 He on y^e Sunday unadvysedlie,
 As manie others went for companie
 In th' Earle of Essex disobeydience,*
 Who entred London then upon pretence,
 Against his private foes to gett defence.
 Whose adversaries tooke this Acte for treason,
 And caus'd it so to be proclaim'd that season :
 For w^{ch} himself soone after lost his head,
 And manie frendes of his were ill bestead,
 Nere to Fleete Bridge she hapned then to lye
 And from her windowe sawe the Earle goe by,
 With him a troupe disorder'd crowdinge on,
 And mongst y^e rest her brother Littleton,
 Which put her all that day in great affright,
 (As it did manie others) yet at night
 Her brother's saffe retorne some comfort brought
 Though manie feares remain'd in her thought.

* This happened on the forenoon of Sunday, February 7th, 1600-1, when the unhappy Earl of Essex passed up Ludgate Hill, with a large retinue, to St. Paul's Cross, intending to appeal to the Lord Mayor, aldermen, and city companies, at the conclusion of the morning sermon, to accompany him to the palace. He lost his head on February 25th. Harestaffe's rough estimate of the position seems fairly accurate; Essex's watchword up the streets was, "For the queen, my mistress," which was scarcely the cry of a traitor. The fall of Essex was really brought about by his constant opposition to the insidious policy of the Cecils.

The Earle in London could noe helpe obtaine
 Wherfore to Essex House he came againe
 Where he was soone besett for fleeinge thence,
 And stood awhyle upon his owne defence :
 Yet did he yeald himself ere midnight hower
 And shortlie was sent Prisoner to the Tower.

Next day betimes were manie such sought out,
 As followed him, but wist not wherabout :
 Of these, S^r Edward Littleton was one,
 To whom (beinge at her lodginge) came anon
 A Pensioner S^r Herbert Croft by name,
 Who by y^e Counsellis warrant thither came
 On whose behalf he quicklie did him greeete
 Comittinge him close prisoner in the Fleete.

This touch't her nere indeede & greev'd her sore,
 She never was in such distresse before :
 Stronge apprehension of her brothers danger,
 Made her respect her owne but as a stranger,
 For she avouch't she cared not what befell
 Touchinge her own affaires : So he did well ;
 For why her losse were but of goodes & lands,
 But he of lyffe and all in danger stands.

Yet for all this she lett not downe her hart,
 But what God sent tooke ever in goode part,
 Knowinge y^t he alone dispos'd of all,
 Without whose providence could nothinge fall.
 Wherfore she did provyde him then wth speede
 All necessaries for his present neede :
 And everie day some good thinge to him sent,
 To comfort him in his imprisonment,
 Duringe y^e tyme of his more close restraint.

But nowe I will goe on wth her affaires,
 Next morning came & she herself prepares

To Court of Wardes wth Atkinson her frend,
The hearinge of her cause there to attend,
Touchinge y^e Rents w^{ch} might her fate amend.
'Tis said before howe Harestaffe had p'par'd
A Supplication gainst y^e cause were heard :
Which havinge readie, to Whytehall he went,
And to y^e Maisters hand did it present,
Even as from out his lodginge dore he came,
Who takinge it, made offer of the same
Unto his Secretarie standinge by,
But Harestaffe then to him did signifie
That it concern'd a cause of some import
Which presentlie were to be heard in Court,
When there his Hono^r should have taen his seate,
Wherfore he verie humblie did entreate
He eyther would himself y^e same detayne,
Or else deliver yt to him againe,
That in due tyme y^e same might be presented :
And therupon the Maister was contented
Himself to keepe it till in court he came,
And there before him open spread the same :
W^{ch} often he perus'd wth good regard,
Whyle Counsell on both sydes their cause declar'd,
And when at large both parties he had heard,
As if he tooke from that Petition,
Cheefe motyve of his resolution,
His order he pronounced to this effect :
Although (quoth he) yt be our cheefe respect
In sittinge here the Princes wardes to right,
Beinge such as of theimselves want powers & might :
Yet in soe doinge, we must not oppresse
Distressed wydows, nor the fatherles,
And poore old servants y^t be succourlesse :
Wherfore I see noe cause but to consent
That Mistris Vernon shall receive y^e rent,

Both to discharge her husband's funerall,
 And to maintain herself and those wthall ;
 This said, forthwth out of y^e court he went.
 As though of only purpose and intent
 To doe her favour he had come that day :
 For manye thought & some did playnlye say
 That for y^e same she did full soundlie pay.
 Oft are they wrong'd y^t such a state live under,
 Wherin true justice shall be held a wonder :
 As in this case befell for 'tis most sure
 That other meanes she never did procure,
 But onely by Petition as aforesaid
 And by good Counsell w^{ch} her cause did pleade.

Touchinge y^e Ryott w^{ch} of late was done
 She did informe Sir Edmond Anderson,
 Then Lord Cheefe Justice of y^e Comon Pleas,
 And Judge at Derby Syzes in those daies,
 Intreatinge his assistance in the same
 Who therupon his letters straight did frame
 Unto the Justices of Derby Shire :
 Wherin he did them earnestlie require
 They should with diligence their warrants send,
 The Malefactors for to apprehend,
 That they might be forthcominge at th' Assises,
 There to make answer to their enterpryzes.

Her adversaries did but ill digest,
 That of the Rents she should be soe possest :
 It seem'd they did begin to doubt th' event,
 For underhand a Friend of theirs was sent,
 To make a tryall of her disposition,
 Yf she would listen to a composition :
 Who offerr'd her soe she would not wth stand
 She should receive three thousand pounds in hand
 And duringe lyffe she should enjoy the lande.

Here was an open way, a readie meane,
Wherby she might wth ease great wealth obtaine
Had she respected onelie private gaine.

But she was ever of a vertuous mynd,
Constant to truth, to frends and children kynd,
And well perceav'd y^t if she should consent
To take this offer, and rest soe content :
They purpos'd whollie to defraude the rest,
Wherfore, their offer she did much detest :
As tendinge right and truth to have supprest.
Preferringe poore men's right to private gaine,
A vertue rare, to which but fewe attaine.
And truth to say, she was provoked much
With lewde demeano^r of a manie such
Whose right she with her owne even then defended
When they against her all their mallice bended.
All whom and manie moe, had she compounded,
Their worldlie states had whollie been confounded.

When she their foresaid offer had despys'd
To vexer still newe cumbers they devys'd
Yet after she that order had obtain'd,
To move for anie thinge they still refrained,
If that the Maister of y^e Court was there :
It seem'd they of his Justice stood in feare :
But wth th' Attorney they could worke much more,
Who was their frend, as I have said before.
They soone obtain'd an Order at his handes
That all such wrytings as concerne y^e landes
Be brought into y^e Court there to abyde,
Untill such tyme this cause may there be tried.
That she with Atkinson and Harestaffe both
Should be examin'd there upon their oath
Touchinge those wrytings so to be brought in :
Wherby 'mongst other things they hoped to win

Possession of those Declarations fyve,
 In w^{ch} her husband whylst he was alyve
 Had signified to whom his lands should goe,
 And did such benefitts and gifts bestowe,
 As in particular hath beene declar'd :
 But Harestaffe had of these as great regard,
 He kept them saffe as th' apple of his eye
 Knowinge their cheefest strength therein did lye.
 Wherefore when other wrytings in were brought
 In humble termes he then the Court besought
 They would not presse him further touchinge these,
 For though he was unwilling to displease,
 Or make contempt even in the least respect,
 Yet since those wrytings were of such effect,
 That all their strength in maner on them stands,
 He would not part with them out of his handes :
 But rather would (if soe the Court thought meete)
 Make choice to take his lodginge in the Fleete.

The Court did not much disallowe his reason,
 Yet did they make an Order at that season,
 That he should shortlie with y^e same resort
 To Maister Hare who then was Clarke oth' Court,
 And on his oath should them to him betake :
 That for the Ward he might true copies take
 Which done, he should receave them back againe,
 And in his custodie they should remaine.

Nowe though their order in this maner past,
 Yet Harestaffe held his resolution fast :
 He fear'd that if they once were dispossesst
 Of these wherein their hope and strength did rest
 Their honest Adversaries would not stick
 To shewe them such a feate and jugglinge trick,
 By Wakeringes meane (who never wanted store)
 That from thenceforth they nere should see them more.

Wherefore y^e Order he did not obey
 But unto Justice Townshend went straightway,
 And tould him, if y^t copies might content him,
 They should be trulie made & shortlie sent him ;
 Whereby he also might such charges save,
 As Clarkes in Court would for those Copies have,
 But if th' originalls he sought to gaine,
 He did but spend his labour all in vaine :
 And when the Justice sawe him deale so plaine
 Unto his motion he did then agree,
 Soe as those Copies should subscribed bee
 Wth th' handes of Harestaffe & of Atkinson :
 W^{ch} was accordinglie soone after done.

The Terme was wel nere spent y^e day at hand
 For to redeeme from Harvey much faire lande
 Eleven hundred pounds to him were due,
 Ere fyve weekes ended—w^{ch} did next ensewe.
 For payment of this debt (as is foretould)
 Were certayne lands appoynted to be sould :
 W^{ch} had ere this been done accordinglie,
 Had not the Court enjoyn'd the contrarie :
 Which by the Adversaries was procur'd
 In pollicie, as beinge well assur'd,
 That if y^e sale of landes they could but stay,
 She needes must faile of money gainst y^e day.
 Which subtill plott of theirs nowe tooke effect,
 And they began to fayne what great respect
 They had to save this lande beinge nowe in danger
 To fall within y^e compase of a stranger :
 They move y^e Court herof to have regard,
 Alledginge what great prejudyce y^e Ward
 Might take thereby, yf that against y^e day
 Provision was not made this debt to pay :
 Requyringe y^t y^e Court would it foresee,
 And to this end some good securitie

Of her and Atkinson forthwth would take,
 That at y^e day due payment they should make.
 W^{ch} if they would not in good sort assure,
 The Plaintiff Justice Townshend would p[']cure
 That s^ume of money to redeeme the lande,
 If with y^e Courts good lykinge it might stand
 That by their order (harmless him to save)
 Of all those Landes he might possession have,
 Till he was paid his money in due fashion,
 And ten ith' hundred for consideration.
 His onely drift was thus to gett possession,
 Though to secure y^e land he made profession.

Here was another straitte, a sore distresse,
 Which she could fynd no meanes howe to redresse,
 For yet y^e Londoners were in such feare
 By reason of the troubles latelie there,*
 They would not lend their coine on anie termes :
 As Atkinson by prooffe to her affirmes.

The Court to her doth nowe this poynt propose,
 Who howe to answeere y^t in noe wyse knowes :
 To them that knew her state, this case appeares,
 Lyke unto his that held y^e Wolfe by th' eares :
 She nether durst that payment undertake,
 Nor yet consent possession to forsake :
 But restinge in her patient sylence still,
 Did leave it to y^e Court to doe their will.
 Who therupon did order out of hande,
 That Justice Townshend to his offer stand,
 And that he have possession of that lande,
 Till of that S^ume he should be satisfied,
 And ten ith' hundred over and besyde.

* This, of course, refers to the disquiet caused by the execution of Essex and several of his friends, which brought the queen and her councillors into much unpopularity, and left London seething for several months.

This made her at y^e first somewhat dismay'd
 But Atkinson who well this poynt had way'd
 Bid her take courage, and be not affraid
 For sure (quoth he) had Justice Townshend ought
 A right good turne, and seven yeares had sought
 To doe y^t for you 'tis perform'd this day,
 By undertakinge that great sūme to pay
 W^{ch} we ourselves by noe meanes could defray.

And though he gett possession of some ground,
 Yet are our tytlcs nere y^e more unsound,
 In tyme there may some helpe for this be found.

Thus Atkinson her frend did cheare her well :
 When presentlie an other crosse befell
 W^{ch} though it was not of so great import,
 But well might be deryded in disport,
 Yet did she take y^e same in worscr sort.
 Because she thought her credit touch't therein,
 W^{ch} she esteemed more than lands to win :
 To th' Court Prerogative then by Citacion
 They call her t' answere 'bout th' administration,
 W^{ch} of her husbands goods she late did take,
 Wherto ith' Wards behalf they tittle make.
 A sence-les thinge for them to put in stryfe
 Unles they thought she had not beene his wyffe.
 And peradventure some such fonde conceite
 Might cause this suite wherof I nowe intreate :
 For lyke enough they had such intimation
 By y^e lewde speeches and false information
 Of Mistris Buck, who did affirme noe lesse,
 In th' hearinge of an hundred witnesses :
 Utteringe foule wordes of slander & defame,
 Against her Sisters credit and good name :
 What time y^e Ryott late before exprest
 Was by y^e Sheriffe and Justices redrest :

For w^{ch} lewde termes and venome of her tonge,
 She gave a sharpe account ere it was longe :
 Beinge sued ith' Audience Court for defamation,
 And sclander gainst her Sisters reputation.
 Wherof she justlie was convicted there
 And afterwards was cyted to appeare,
 Here sentence there pronounc't y^t she might heare.
 But shewing contumacie in that case,
 Was excommunicate from Holy Place.*
 (And soe I thinke continewes to this day.)
 Beinge tax't some twentie marks for cost to pay.
 Upon w^{ch} suite did Mistris Vernon proove
 Her marriage fullye (as did her behoove)
 By sundrie Witnesses of honest fame,
 And by y^e Priest y^t solemnised y^e same.
 And surely God for her did well provyde,
 That thus her private marriage should be tryed
 Whylst those fewe Witnesses were livinge yet,
 To testify for her the truth of it :
 For why. Her Adversaries fullye bent
 All their endeavo's her estate to rent,
 But God did still their purposes prevent.
 Nowe to retorne. When Hillarie terme was ended,
 And y^t her brother's state was well amended :
 Beinge then from close imprisonment enlarg'd :
 And in good hope ere longe to be discharg'd :
 To take her jorney home-wards she doth frame
 And wth much toyle & travell thither came.
 Where she then found her house in ill array,
 Both walles and windowes broke & great decay,
 Much good provision wasted which she lefte,
 And manie things conveid away by theft :
 For they had rans-ackt Chests and Cofers all,
 Trunks, Cupboards, Deskes, with boxes great & small :

* Slander was an offence dealt with exclusively by the ecclesiastical courts ; the court, in this case, would probably be that of the Chancellor's at Lichfield.

It could not choose but gyve her much offence
Yet for all this she still us'd patience.

The Lent Assizes came, Then she prepar'd
This Cause before y^e Judges might be heard,
Which by Petition she to them declar'd :
When the Lord Anderson did understand
The truth thereof : he wile'd her out of hand,
She should endyte them all of felonie,
Protestinge therwth all most earnestlie
He would not fayle to hange some two or three :
As necessarie for ensample sake,
That others might by them good warninge take.

But she was farre from anie such intent
And in nowyse would therunto consent,
But said she would much rather be content
To put up all her losse and injurie,
And seeke therein noe further remedie
Then so to put their lyves in jeopardie,
She cheeffie did desyre by his good meane,
Such good securitie for to obtayne,
That she and hers might thenceforth live in peace
And th' other from their misdemeano's cease.
The Judge was earnest she should prosecute
In point of felonie this present suite
But she intreated still to be excus'd
In that to satisfye him she refus'd :
Who seeinge her to take revenge soe coole,
As half offended said she play'd the foole.
And then he gave directions to endyte
Upon the Ryott, such as they recyte
To have beene Acto's in this lewde attempt,
Some thirtie two, for manie were exempt
That had beene also of their companie,
By follie rather then for enmitie :

Whom she of curtesie did nowe forbear,
 And would not have their names in question here ;
 For w^{ch} to her they much beholden were.

Th' Indictment beinge drawne, y^e Judge did call
 To see y^e same, which he perused all :
 His reason why, himself did then expounde,
 Lest anie error might therein be founde.
 Then he comaunds y^e Sheriffe to bringe in there
 Buck and his man (who still his prisoners were)
 For of y^e rest not anie durst appeare.
 These two were placed at y^e Prisoners Barre :
 And then was the Grand Jurie called for,
 Th' Indictment read, & gyven to them, wth charge
 T' inquire y^e truth : Her Counsell then at large
 Did open everie point of their offence,
 And prov'd the same by open evidence,
 A present verdict most men did expect,
 But what soe vyle y^t some will not protect ?
 Example here, a kinsman * of her owne,
 An Auncient Squier, who nere before was knowne
 To serve on anie Jurie in this place,
 Had made appearance onely for this case :
 And nowe was Forman of y^e Great Enquest,
 Belyke of purpose t' over-rule the rest,
 Both by his credet, longe experience,
 Most subtill witt, and formall eloquence.
 This man endeavour'd nowe wth all his might
 T' extenuate the fault, and make it light !
 And through much passion went therein so farre,
 He tooke upon him publiquelie at Barre
 To pleade for them : y^t seemes forgettinge howe
 He was noe Advocate, but Jurour nowe.

* Mr. William Agard of Foston. [Note in the MS.]

William Agard, of Foston (in the parish of Scropton), was the son of Nicholas Agard by his first wife Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon. (See pedigree.)

The Judge (respectinge him) put him in mynd,
His dutie in this case was soe to fynde
Accordinge as was given in Evidence ;
But afterward the Judge took such offence,
When in his erro^r still he did persist,
That from comittinge him but little mist
And tould him openlye he was asham'd
In his behalf, y^t ere he should be nam'd
To use such misdemean^{or} in that place,
And manie other wordes of much disgrace
Were gyven him there by y^e Lord Anderson,
And more and worse by Serjeant Yelverton.
When he was thus disgrac't & sharplie check't
He humblie pray'd them pardon his defect,
And that he might their former favo^r gaine
Protestinge (if he might the same obtayne.)
As he had never served there before,
So from thenceforth he never would doe more,
Then was th' Indictment found, and therupon
Yonge Buck was called, and there arraign'd anon,
And at y^e Prisoners Barre (where he did stand)
He was enforced to holde up his hande ;
And fyned at a Thousand Marks straight way :
His man fyve hundred was adjudg'd to pay ;
Beinge both of them comitted back againe
Unto y^e Sheriffe in prison to remaine,
Whom till y^e Somer Syze he did retayne.
What tyme S^r Humphrey Ferrers her kynd frend
And Maister Mannors 'twixt them made an end.
Whereby to her some goods restored were,
And th' other from imprisonment sett cleare.
Touchinge those thirtie more w^{ch} were indyted,
Although by her they could not be acquyted,
Yet them she did forbear to prosecute
Besydes she did lett fall another suite

W^{ch} she ith' Star-Chamber at first commenc'd
 From whence she brought downe Proces them against,
 W^{ch} nere were serv'd : such was her clemencie,
 She pardon'd all their wronge and injurie,
 When she might have undone them utterlie.
 I had almost forgott here to recyte,
 Howe Justice Townshend did his letters wryte
 To the Lord Anderson them to befriend
 And's owne Sollicitor to him did send
 In their behalf his favour to obtayne,
 But these his faire endeavo's were in vaine :
 He dealt not wth a Judge lyke some of those
 Who in y^e Marches doe of things dispose
 But wth an upright Judge, who did despyse
 His letters and his dealinge in that wyse :
 My self by chance was witnes of the same,
 Who then into y^e Judges chamber came,
 When he those worthie letters had perus'd
 And overheard some angrie wordes he us'd
 Concerninge them in scorne and much disdain :
 And heard him tell y^e Priest in speeches plaine,
 He must he hang'd, if ech one had his due ;
 For of his lewde behaviour well he knewe :
 As well by reason of this late offence,
 Of w^{ch} his tytle gave the first pretence :
 And of another more notorious cryme,
 Wherof he was accus'd in former tyme :
 Noe lesse them felonie and Burglarie,
 Concerninge Vicar Tricketts* robberie :

* Henry Tryckytt was Vicar of Marston-on-Dove. He is mentioned in the Churchwardens' Accounts under the year 1605. The following extracts evidently refer to the case mentioned in the chronicle :—

" ^p d to Will Mansfild & Tristram Dantrey for a Caviat for Vicar Tryckytt	0 . 0 . 10
Layd forthe for a Latitat to M ^r Browne of Marston Mon- gomrye for the Vicar	0 . 5 . 0
To the undersheriffe for makinge a warrante of the Latitat & for fees to tow sergeantes att Derbye to arest the Vicar	0 . 1 . 8."

See *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. iii., pp. 203, 207.

For w^{ch} he had beene prisoner in y^e gaole,
 With others moe till they were loos'd by Baile :
 At next Assyzes when they did appeare,
 Indictments were preferr'd against them there :
 The Bills were found, yet Tryall was suspended,
 Through Maister Vernon's purse they were befrended
 For with the Vicar he made composition,
 And yet because he had him in suspition,
 Least he should prosecute as he stooode bounde,
 He gave unto a Courtier* Twentie pounce,
 And used Atkinson's assistance too,
 (Who in this cause had both inough a doe)
 To gett the Counsells letters in this case
 To stay their Tryall for a certayne space.
 And many a pound it cost his purse besyde,
 In their behalfe to keepe this cause untry'd
 From Syze to Syze untill y^e tyme he dyed.
 W^{ch} cause ith' Court defendinge at that day,
 Procur'd the Judge those angrie words to say :
 And me to treatte thereof thus much by the way.

Our Ladies day was come, tyme did require
 To sett such grounds as past from yeare to yeare :
 W^{ch} Justice Townshend did not then neglect,
 (For private profitt he did much respect)
 Two of his men he sent to Sudburie,
 Of purpose, (as his Order did decree)
 Possession to receave of all those landes
 W^{ch} late had beene redeem'd from Harvey's handes :
 With his authoritie for to dispose
 And sett the same for yearlye rent to those
 That would gyve most. It seem'd he made noe doubt,
 That gainst his Order any durst stand out.
 Nor did there of y^e Tenantes anie one
 Wthstand : but all agreed to them anon :

* Mr. Ferdinando. [Note in the MS.]

Who kyndlie ask't their bondes to pay y^e rent,
 And they full wyselie did therto consent.
 Yet for all this his purpose much he mist,
 Because that Mistris Vernon did resist,
 And would not leave possession of such landes
 As at that tyme she helde in her owne handes :
 For when his men assai'd some grounde to dryve,
 For fashion sake (not with intent to stryve)
 That some contempt from thence they might derive :
 She sent of hers lyke number for to stay
 Her cattle in the grounde, and stop the way,
 Avouchinge she therin would disobey.
 W^{ch} when they heard and playnlie did perceave,
 They made noe more adoe, but tooke their leave
 Of her, and homewards to their Maister went,
 To whom by them her letters then she sent
 For he before had written unto her
 Faire admonitions there should be noe stirre :
 But y^t all might be done in quiet sorte,
 Accordinge as the Order did import :
 She by her letters writt to this effect :
 That of the Order she tooke good respect,
 And helde not from him anie of y^e landes
 W^{ch} had been usuallie in tenantes handes :
 But what were in her owne possession,
 W^{ch} she and all her household liv'd upon :
 And those as heretofore she meant to holde,
 And would make answere for it as she could.

When Justice Townshend sawe she was so stoute
 That gainst the Order thus she durst stand out,
 In my conceite it gave him cause to doubt
 That she relyed upon some powerfull frend,
 W^{ch} in her rightfull cause would her defend :
 And not unlyke he had in memorie
 The Maister's words in pointe of equitie,

When late he did to her the rent award :
 Wthall howe sleightlylie she did regard
 Those proffers large were made her mynd to trye,
 And peremptorilye did them denye :
 Besydes he found that honest Atkinson
 Would not by anie meanes from her be won,
 But constantlie in open Court had say'd
 (Layinge his hand on Edward Vernon's head,
 Her eldest sonne, who by him there did stand)
 This he to whom I will assure the lande.
 These things perhaps the Justice pondered well,
 And therupon to resolution fell,
 That in this cause he would noe more contend,
 If she would harken to a frendlie end.
 Wherefore he shorlie after writt againe,
 Wth shewe of marveile that she did demeane
 Herself contemptuouslie against the Court :
 Yet nerethelesse to doe her anie hurt
 He was unwillinge : And did further wryte
 That for his part, he tooke but small delight
 In suites of Lawe his money for to spend
 But rather wish'd some faire & frendlie end
 For all their well-fare might be thought upon,
 And to that purpose made a motion,
 That they should meete next terme for y^t intent :
 She had noe reason but to give consent
 Of meetinge : for although he had not moov'd
 She meant to be at Terme, as her behoov'd.

Meetinge at London, They determine then,
 To choose on either part some gentlemen
 Discreete and wyse to treat of this affaire,
 For nowe to peace they all inclyned were :

And first of all as ground worke to y^e rest,
 These gentlemen on both sydes thought it best,

To move, that for y^e endinge of all stryffe,
 Her eldest sonne should take y^e ward to wyffe
 Soe neithers tittle further neede by tryed :
 And yet both Lawe and conscience satisfied :
 For both of them might soe their claim enjoy,
 And neither of them others right destroy.
 This was a pleasinge notion in the care
 Of everie one that of this suite did heare.
 Yet she at first to give consent made pause,
 Not that she did dislyke y^e but because
 It suted not with her dead husband's will,
 W^{ch} she by all good meanes sought to fullfill.
 And this she signified unto her frendes,
 On whose advyse and counsell she dependes.
 But to that point their counsell and advyse
 Was, that she should not bee therein too nyce
 Yea Atkinson himself did her advyse
 That in the same she should not be precyze
 And some there were stood doubtfull of the end
 In case she should stand off and still contend
 Because the Court would still y^e Ward befrend.
 Then as ore-ruled, She therunto agreed.
 And soe to other points they did proceede,
 Wherof in manie they accorded well :
 But yet in others sundrie doubts befell,
 And variances amongst them did aryse,
 W^{ch} they could not accord in anye wyse :
 Especiallye concerninge those poore frends,
 And manie servants whose estate dependes
 Whollye on her successe, whom she would have
 To be assur'd of all her husband gave :
 But Justice Townshend & those on his syde,
 To yeald to y^t in noe wyse would abyde :
 But sought to cutt them short : and She againe
 By all meanes sought they might their right obtaine,

These points amongst them longe were stood upon :
But in the ende there grewe a motion,
That sith these matters were of some import,
They be referr'd to th' censure of the Court :
This Reference was full sore against her mind,
Being in great doubt hard measure there to fynde
Both for herself and them : yet frends advyse
Alledginge y^t great mischiefs might aryse
Yf in this case she should be obstinate,
And bid her well to weigh her owne estate
Lest afterwards she doe repent too late.
Ore-haled thus, she yealded to y^t motion,
To w^{ch} (God wott) she had but small devotion.
Then to S^r Thomas Hesketh they resort,
Who was Attorney them and Judge oth Court.

He first applaunding much this match intended
Did soone sett downe howe all things should be ended
And therin Justice Townshend well befrended.

Nowe though of everie one he tooke regard,
Yet specialle inclyninge to the Ward
He did abridge a manie things of those
W^{ch} Maister Vernon latelie did dispose :
So that what she suspected came to passe,
Both to her owne and to some others losse.
And yet though some of them came short of that
Which their late Maister pointed for their lott,
There was not anie of them unregarded,
But all provyded for and well rewarded.
Through her endeavo's who was her protection.
And brought their matters all to good perfection.
Much are they bounde to such a Patronesse,
To shewe all dutie love and thankfulnes.
Yet for herself she did not soe provyde,
But by this end great losses did abyde ;

For where her husband willed y^t she should
 Have all y^e landes for lyffe ; y^t was controul'd :
 And nowe upon this match it was agreed
 (In case y^e marriage hould and doe proceede)
 She should injoy but onelie half y^e landes :
 The other half should come unto y^e handes
 Of th' heire adopted and y^e Ward his wyffe,
 To him and his heires male, to her for lyffe,
 The Mother's moytie when her lyffe did fayle
 Should also come to him and his heires male :
 For want of such all should accordinglie
 Discend, as Maister Vernon did decree,
 And thus to lose one half she did agree.
 Now in respect both heires were under age,
 And could not give consent of mariage,
 It was agreed y^t till seav'n yeares were spent,
 She take all rents and profitts of intent
 To pay y^e debts, and helpe to cleare y^e lande :
 Wherin a toylsome taske she tooke in hande :
 W^{ch} she perform'd wth noe small care & paynes,
 Without y^e least respect of private gaines :
 For therunto she never was affected,
 But to advance her Sonne was still addicted.
 Which nowe and all tymes she declared well
 For where it was agreed, that she might sell
 To th' valewe of three hundred pounds in wood,
 (Though of much more than y^t in neede she stood)
 She lov'd her sonne soe well y^t for his good
 She spar'd y^e same, least y^t she should deface
 His woods therby, w^{ch} she would in noe case.
 Nay more, wheras y^e other syde agreed
 To further sale of lande, (as there was neede)
 She notwthstandinge did y^e same neglect,
 Unto her sonne She had so kynd respect.
 And where noe Mannor house was on y^e ground,

She built one newe w^{ch} cost her many a pounce,*
 Where may a Mother lyke to her be founde?
 Well may he say She was a lovinge Mother,
 And I dare sweare I nere knewe such an other.

CONCERNINGE SUDBURY PARKE.

When sixtene hundred and the fourteenth yeare
 Of Christ our Lord almost accomplish't were,
 And Twelve since James y^e first (great Britaines King)
 Unto a Monarchie this Isle did bringe :
 The olde Blakmore (enlarg'd with some more ground)
 Was with a strong high pale encompassed rounde.
 The purpose was (as shortly did appeare)
 To make a Parke for redd and fallowe deere.
 This worke began y^e other yeare forpast,
 And till December of this yeare did last,
 The reason why the same no sooner ended,
 It was because on one man's hand depended
 The cheefest worke, for one man pal'd it all,
 Except some fourscore roods (a portion small
 Compared to y^e whole) for by accounte
 The compasse of y^e same did then amount
 One rood above six hundred if noe fault
 Was in the measuringe by Francis Aulte,
 Which by his skill and practise in that trade
 The Sixteenth of December there he made.
 Allowinge then eight yards to every roode,
 (Accordinge as y^e workmen's reckoninge stood)
 The sume of yards (yf myne account be straight)
 Above foure thousand is eight hundred eight
 Then if a myle one thousand paces make,
 And that to every pace fyve foote you take,
 A measur'd myle of yards doth so contayne
 Full sixtene hundred sixtie sixe (tis playne)

* The Manor House, or present Hall, was built before 1622 ; see introduction to the Chronicle.

And two foote more : wherby it falleth out,
 The Park is almost three such myles about,
 It onely wants of Roodes some twentie foure,
 Which makes in yards but twelve above nyne score.

And nowe because I thinke there wilbe some,
 (Though yet unborne) y^t in the tyme to come
 Wilbe content to read what here I wryte
 Although but rudely I the same indyte
 Yet beinge done in ayde of memorie,
 And for to gratifye Posteritie,
 A litle more I will my ryme inlarge,
 And shewe by whose devyse and at whose charge
 This worke was both begun and finished,
 And afterward with deere replenished
 Knowe then that Edward Vernon was his name,
 That first contryv'd and did effect y^e same.
 His dignitiè to learne if you desyre,
 He was as then entytled an Escuyer,
 Yet his estate so faire y^t when he pleas'd
 To greater tittle he might soone be rays'd :
 Three Vernon's lands of right expected hee,
 Of Houndhill, Hilton, and of Sudburie ;
 Houndhill by birth-right, Hilton by his wife,
 (Both which, two mothers held for terme of lyfe)
 But unto Sudbury y^e last and best,
 (Wherof one moytie he as then possest)
 He was elected and adopted heire,
 By the late owner of that Lordship fayre :
 John Vernon was he called and of that name,
 He was the Third y^t did enjoy the same.
 For here tis meete I lett you understand,
 That Sudbury and all his other land
 And faire Revennewes (beinge a great estate)
 Into the Vernon's name came but of late.
 They were the greate Montgomeries heretofore
 Who with y^e same held manie Lordships more

And goodly Mannors, all which (as appeares)
Went by partition to the three Coheires,
The daughters of S^r John Mountgomerie :
Of whom was Hellen (second of those three)
To S^r John Vernon joyn'd in mariage.
And so by her a goodly Heritage
To Henry Vernon did descend and came,
Their onely sonne, and heire unto y^e same.
And after Henryes death these Lordships fayre
Discended to this John his sonne and heire,
Who spent most of his daies in single lyfe,
And in his later yeares he tooke to wyfe,
Mary y^e Widowe of his kinsman deare,
Call'd Walter Vernon who of Houndhill were.
To her such love he bore and true affection,
That where he had no chyld, he made election
Of Edward Vernon (whom I nam'd before)
Her eldest sonne whom she to Walter bore :
Adoptinge him his heire to Sudburye
And Aston mannors with all landes y^t bee
To them belonging, from y^e death of's mother
To whom for lyfe he gave both one and th' other.
But after John's decease, great suites did growe
About these landes : for it had faln out soe
His yonger brother Henry beinge dead,
To whom their mother had her lands convey'd,
Both Hilton, Aspley, Sugnell, Essington,
And all her other landes, she beinge one,
Oth' daughters and coheirs of Swinnerton,
Had left one onely daughter who beinge yonge
Was made y^e Princes Warde (y^e more her wronge)
Whose Guardians then on her behalf pretended,
That all her Uncles lands of right descended
By course of comon lawe unto this daughter,
Whereby great suites and troubles followed after

To treate whereof my labour shall be spar'd,
 Because elsewhere I have the same declar'd.
 At last for finall end of all their stryfe,
 Edward y^e heire adopted tooke to wyfe
 This heire at comon lawe (who Margaret hight)
 Wherby both parties might obtaine their right.
 And if without offence one may compare
 Small thinges with great, methinks this couple are
 A little modell both oth match and warre
 Twixt those great Houses York and Lancaster.
 Upon this match his mother did consent
 With half these landes to hold herself content,
 And where her husband gave her all for lyfe,
 She yeelds the moytie to her son and's wyfe :
 So kynd was she and lovinge to her sonne,
 Fewe mothers have done so as she hath done :
 A right good mother to her sonne men thought her,
 I wish the lyke had hapned to that daughter :
 Whose mother unto her was not so kynd,
 Yet that she was a Lady I doe fynd :
 For Justice Townshend then her second match
 (Who was a Judge ith' Marches) hapt to catch
 A Knighthood mongst the rest, when Knyghts were ryfe*
 A joyfull tyme it was to many a wyfe,
 As well as his, whom gladly I would praise,
 If truth would give me leave, therby to please
 Her daughter, who unwillynge is to see
 Her mothers wronges, to her great injurie :
 Which I will not recyte, though well I could,
 Who knowe them to be great and manifolde :
 Yet one of them I needs must here repeate,
 (For it concernes y^e poynt wherof I treate)
 This mother for her lyfe holdes in her handes,
 The whole Revennewes of her daughters lands :

* In the course of the first three months of the reign of James I. no less than seven hundred individuals were knighted.

She may alledge, That this was so agreed
What tyme y^e match was twixt y^e heires decreed :
And true it is, her tytle growes from thence,
And she may holde them so without offence
To th' Comon Lawe : But Court of Conscience
And Natures lawe requyres great recompence,
For that, and more great things her father left her,
All which her Lady mother hath bereft her.
God grante y^t she in conscience ere she dye
May for y^t same her daughter satisfye
In some good measure, y^t departing hence
It be noe burthen to her conscience.

FINIS.