

DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
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Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon.

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IN the muniment room of Belvoir Castle are preserved many interesting records of the Vernons of Haddon which place, together with many other broad manors, came into the possession of the Manners family through the wedding of John Manners with Dorothy Vernon, co-heiress of Sir George Vernon.

The Rutland collection of Records, which as Mr. Carrington says, "are probably unsurpassed in extent and varied interest by any others in the hands of a private individual in the kingdom<sup>1</sup>" have been made accessible to us through the Report of the Historical MSS. Commission, upon which this article is mainly founded.

The Vernon family through their own merit and successive fortunate matrimonial alliances had raised itself to the highest rank in Derbyshire, and were even of great importance in the kingdom, as we may judge from the letters addressed to Sir Henry Vernon by

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<sup>1</sup> *Journal*, vol. 22, p. 26.

King Edward IV, the Duke of Clarence, the Earl of Warwick, King Richard III and Henry VII. I am not aware what side the Vernons took in the calamitous Wars of the Roses, but towards the end of that fratricidal strife their aid was sought by both sides, but like many others they may have neglected both summons and waited for the event of battle to decide which king they would acknowledge. Such tergiversation was common, and they only followed the example of their superiors the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick. Henry Vernon's marriage with Anne daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot in 1466 enhanced his importance, and no doubt it was his father-in-law's influence which made him attach himself to the party which favoured Henry Tudor's invasion. The Talbots had joined Henry in his advance through the Midland Counties, and no doubt Vernon joined with them and the Stanleys in the overthrow of Richard at the battle of Bosworth. This must have been the case as we find him in high favour with the new monarch, by whom he was made Governor and Treasurer to Prince Arthur and subsequently created a Knight of the Bath.

Sir Henry Vernon's immediate ancestors were also men of importance. His grandfather Sir Richard Vernon was made Treasurer of Calais and Captain of Rouen, in reward for his services in the French Wars. He was subsequently M.P. for Derbyshire and Speaker of the Parliament held at Leicester. He it was who erected the east window in Haddon chapel in which are emblazoned the arms of himself and his wife Benedicta Ludlow. Sir Richard was also the king's steward for the High Peak Forest and Castle, and was very stringent in enforcing the king's rights, as may be judged from the following complaints:—"1450. Petition of Thomas Stanley and Edmund Trafford, knights, are bound to pay farm and rent for certain pastures in the Peak, the said

Richard Vernon distrains for the rent although charged by the Privy Seal not to do so, and also has imprisoned the occupiers of said pastures."

"Robert Bagshawe, one of the king's tenants complains that Roger Clark, servant of Sir Richard Vernon, came with seven men armed with jacks and salets and forcibly took him and imprisoned him in the Peak Castle without any cause."

Similar complaint of "Robert Woodrofe, forester in fee, that Roger Clark, servant of Sir Richard Vernon, took and imprisoned him in the Peak Castle for 3 days, whereas he and his fellow foresters of the ward of Champagne have had liberty since the time of Prince John Duke of Lancaster to occupy those claims with certain cattle of their own or to agist the cattle of others."

"William Hadfield of Edale complains to the King's Circuit of the Duchy of Lancaster that Sir Richard Vernon, the king's steward of the Peak a fermour of the Forest, had sued him in the King's Court for trespass. The said Richard is so mighty in the said county that the beseecher may not abide the danger of the suit."

Sir Richard's son William, father of Sir Henry Vernon, was also M.P. for Derbyshire, and was made Knight Constable of England. He married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Pipe and Spernore. He died 30th June, 1467, and was succeeded by his son Henry who was born in 1441.

The years 1470 and 1471 saw some strange revolutions in England. In the autumn of the former year Warwick was master of the kingdom, and King Edward flying to Flanders; but in March 1471 Edward landed at Ravenspur in Yorkshire, marched to York where he assumed the crown, and evading the forces of the Earl of Warwick arrived in London by forced marches. Always popular in the metropolis he was received by the citizens with enthusiasm. After a short stay in the city he marched

his forces out northwards, met and defeated Warwick at Barnet and slew him and his brother Montague. The following letters refer to this exciting period.

Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon, squire.

“1470, Oct. 4, Tewkesbury.

Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele, lating you wite that wee bee fully purposed with the grace of our Lord to bee at Lichefield on Twysday now commyng, on Monday at our toun of Asthebourne and on Thursday next ensuyng at our town of Chestrefield. Wherefore we woll and desire you to mete with us at our commyng at the said parties, and to commande on our behelf our officers and tenanntes within your offices to doo in like wyse. Geven under our signet at Tewkesbury the iiii day of October.”

When this letter was written, Clarence and his father-in-law, the Earl of Warwick, were in possession of the kingdom. Edward had fled to Flanders to his ally the Duke of Burgundy. The Duke of Clarence at this time appears to have held several manors in Derbyshire.

Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon.

“1471, March 15th, Bristol. Henry Vernon we have receyved your lettres written at Haddon the 8th day of March and thank you right hertily of such tidings as yo have sent us by the same praying you to thanke on our behalve our cousine the Countesse of Shrovesbury of the great love and zele she oweth unto us desiring her goode continuance in her lovinge disposicion towards us and she shal not nede to doubte with the grace of our Lord that any things shalbee disclosed that on her behalve shalbee opened unto us by you. Also we thanke you right hertily of the goode and deligent devoir that ye have doon in thexecucion of your office and to such things as may be to our wele then as ever understande trusting verailly to your goode continuance in the same. And as for Robert Legh wee have sent to our cousin the Chauncellere of England that he shall bee sent for by privee seal according to your advertisement, desiring you to adcerteigne us from tyme to tyme of such tidyngs as ye shall more understande lyke as ye have done at this tyme to our great pleasure. Item; as to our game at Enffield Fryth [*sic*] we have sent thither Nicholas Longford to see to the reformation

of such things as hath been done to the hurte thereof, trusting that through the meanes and direcions of you both togidder you woll see that our said game shall not be hurt hereafter.

Written at Bristowe the xvth day of March. Overe this that ye see that as well all your tenauntes and servauntes as ours in those partyes be redy uppon an hours warnyng to wayte uppon us in defensible array whensoevere we send for you and them.

[P.S. in the Duke's own hand].

. . . . . to you a leter I wryt at this tyme to my cosen the Countesse of Shrovesbury and desyr you to geff credence to the repor of your servant in that he shale show you on my behaff doenge your devoyr in leyke wyes as he haff done to know the disposyon of the seyde Erell of Shrowsbere and the labor wyche you by hem and the bond wyche ye haf sartifeyed me ye lat made by hem and them labored in the country . . . . . and how the sayd countrey be disposed in effery thyng as ffar as ye can honderstand. I pray you to sartiffey me fro tyme to tyme."

Except in the last paragraph this letter refers to private matters. Enfield Fryth must I think be a misprint for Duffield Fryth. I know of no place called Enfield but Duffield Fryth was a Royal Chace at this time. Nicholas Longford was a scion of an old Derbyshire family, there are 13 generations of them given in St. George's Visitation of 1611. Robert Legh is probably Robert Leigh who married the daughter and heiress of Lathbury of Eggington. The Duke's P.S. is almost unintelligible except that he wishes Vernon to sound the Earl of Shrewsbury and the rest of the county as to their disposition towards himself. This letter was no sooner sent than it was followed by another.

Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon.

"1471, March 16th, Wells, Henry Vernon we pray you to finde the means as secretly as ye can to have sure and trusti men in the North and wheresoever therl of Northumberland bees to espie of the guyding there, and as the cas shall require, and it shalbee expedient to certifie us and alway when oon is goon that another bee abiding, and in the lyke wyse that ye

have about therl of Shrovesbury and the Lord Stanley oon comminge to us and another alway abiding there. We bee ascerteigned that it is said about London that King Edward is seyled by the costs of Norfolk towards Humber. Wherefor we pray you to send thidden to enquire and understand of the truth, and to certifie us thereof, and if he bee on those costs that alway ye have spies there to certifie us from tyme to tyme of the tidings of the guyding, oon comming to us and another alway abiding us in the other places, dooing you effectual devoir herein as our verry trust is in you, not sparing for the costs, for we woll allowe you at your accompts the uttermost of thexpences that ye shale make on that behalf. Wylling and desiring you that bicause of these tydings ye doo the gretter devoir to arredie you with as many as ye can make a defensible array as well of our tenants as of yours to bee redy to come to us within an houres warnynge lyke as we wrote to you but late by your servaunt. Written at Wells ye xvith day of March. G. Clarence, Signet."

When the letter was written, Edward had already landed at Ravenspur.

" Richard Earl of Warwick to Henry Vernon, squire.

1471, March 25. Warwick. Righte trusti and righte wele beloved I grete you wele and desire and hertily pray you that in as moshe as yonder man Edward the Kings our soveign lord gret enemy rebelle and traitour is now late arrived in the North partes of this land and commyng fast on Southward accompanied with Flemminge, Esterlands and Danes not exceeding the number of all he hath of 11 M personnes, nor the countree as he cometh nothing falling to him, ye woll therefor incontiente and forthwith astir the sight thereof dispose you towards me to Coventre with all as many people defensibly arraied as ye can redily create, and that ye be with them in all haste possible as my vray singular trust is in you and as I mowe doo thing to your wele and worship hereafter and God kepe you.

Written at Warwick the xxvth day of March.

[P.S. in Warwick's writing]. Henry I pray you ffayle not now as ever I may doo for you. Therle of Warwick and Salisbury Lieut. to the Kinge our Sovereigne lord Henry the Sexte.

R. Warrewyk, Signet."

The Earl of Warwick who had been the pillar of the Yorkists and had been the tutor in war of the young

Earl of March had turned round and joined the Lancastrians. "Perjured Clarence" though proposing to help his father-in-law was already meditating his betrayal. Edward had brought some Burgundians and Flemings with him furnished by the Duke of Burgundy.

Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon.

"1471. March 30th. Malmesbury. Henry we can you righte goode thanks for the goode devoir that you have done in sending for the men to understand of the rule and guying of Edward late King, and thanke you for the writing that you last sent to us, whereby we understand the goode and lovinge disposicion towards us of our cousin of Shrovesbury whereof we bee right glad. Praying you that ye will haste you towards us as soon as you may, making the more speed and greater haste inasmuch as it is needful and expedient as ye may well conceyve. Warnyng all our servaunts nigh you and by the way as ye shall comme that they spede therein to us in all haste possible, doing your faithfull devoir herein in this tyme as our special trust is in you. Written at Malmesbury xxxth day of March. G. Clarence, signet."

"Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon, Esquire.

1471, April 2nd. Burford. Right trusti and welbeloved wee grete you wele and desire and pray you that incontinent after the sight of these our lettres ye comme unto us with the people that ye have gadred in defensible array, keping the way towards us to Banbury warde, and that ye faile not hereof as our special trust is in you. Geven under our signet at Burford ye second of April. G. Clarence, signet."

Clarence was advancing from Malmesbury to Banbury to intercept Edward; he advanced to Coventry and then threw off the mask and joined his brother's forces.

"Edward IV to Henry Vernon.

1471, May 7th. Tewkesbury. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wel and lating you wite that we purpose to bee at our cite of Coventre on Monday next wolling and charging you therefor to mete with us with xx persnes defensibly arayed in our cominge thider, and that ye may accompanie us with the same, not failing thereof as our trust is in you. Geven under our signet at Tewkesbury the viith day of May.

Sign Manual and Signet."

The battle of Barnet had been fought, Warwick and his brother were slain, and Edward five days after took the field and pursued the Lancastrian forces which he overtook at Tewkesbury and defeated with great slaughter.

“ King Edward to Henry Vernon, Esquire,

1471, May 8th. Worcester. Trusti and well beloved we grete you wel and desire and also charge that immediately after the sight of these our letters with such felaship defensibly arayed as ye goodly can make ye comme with us wheresoever ye shall here that we bee without failing, upon the feyth and liegeaunce ye owe unto us and forfieture of all that ye may forfaiete. Geven under our signet at our monastery of Worcester viiith day of May. Cause and consideracion why we write to you at this tyme is this: albeit God of his grace hath geven with us the Victory of our great rebelles, and that Margaret late called Queene is in our handes, her son Edward slayn Edmund called Duc of Somerset, John Erl of Devonshire with all the other lords knightes and noblemen that were in their company taken or slayn, yet we now understand that commones of divers partes of this our royaume make murmurs and commocions entending the distruccion of the churche, of us our lords and all noblemen, and to subvert the public of our said royome which we in our persone with Goddes helpe and assistance of you and other trewe subgettes shall mightly defend the same and we woll that ye be with us allgeter on Tuesday next. Sign Manual and signet.”

Although the battle of Tewkesbury had destroyed the hopes of the Red Rose, Edward was still uncertain of the future, so he called upon all his subjects to help him. As to the destruction of the church he himself had incurred great odium by his action in dragging the Lancastrian noblemen out of the abbey church at Tewkesbury, where they had claimed sanctuary, and slaying them.

“ Duke of Clarence to Henry Vernon, Esquire.

1471, May 10th. Coventry. Right trusti and wellbeloved we grete you wele, and howe it bee that my lord thanked bee to our Lord hath subdued his enemys traitours and rebelles Edward



late calling himself Prince, Edmund late called Duc of Somerset, John his brother and John late called Erl of Devonshire which with divers others lordes knightes and other there adherentes ar slayn, Margarete late called Quene, and the wyf of the said Edward taken and brought to my said lordes handes and possession. Yit natheless my said lord entendeth to repress the malice of certain personnes entending the distruccon of the church, and the noble blode of this land, and the subvercion of the same land to the total distruccon thereof if they might atteyne their cursed and malicious pourpos as God forbede; to which repressing we woll geve my said lord attendaunce and assistance in all that is in us and therein doo him service as our duete is, either in his company or in such party as it shall please him to commande us, latyng you wite that it hath been rapported to us that ye have heretofor put you in devoir to have commen to us if ye had thought, whereof we thanke you, and the maters and causes of the lette and impediment of your commyng has cessed blessed be God. Whereof we desire and pray you that incontinent after the sight of these our letters ye comme hidder unto us with as many men defensibly arrayed as ye can make, and that at furthest ye bee with us a Twysday next commyng without failing as our trust is in you and as ye entend to please us. And ye shale fynde us your goode lorde and thereof ye shall not nede to doubt in any wyse. Geven under our signet at Coventre xth day of May.

G. Clarence.

To the perjured Duke, Edward is no longer "the late King," he is now "my lord." We have no information to which of his two summons Vernon responded. By the former letter he had been asked to bring his retainers to oppose King Edward and now he was asked to support him. Amongst the papers of this date was found a list of jewels which had apparently been pledged by Vernon to enable him to meet his great expenses.

"I.H.S. 1493. Ser, there is with Robert Cartalege to plegge le v' day of October anno 13<sup>o</sup> the gret crosse with a gret balac (ruby) and a gret safar (sapphire) and a dyamonde and vi perles waying ii oz. di. Item a hangar of gold garnassed with iiii small dyamonds and a lytyll ruby and iii perles. Thes lye to plegge by a letter of sale to pay the v<sup>o</sup> day of Aperil nex commyng xx<sup>ii</sup>.

Ser, ther is with Richard Walkar to plegge le 18' jour of Dec-

ember anno 13<sup>o</sup> a colar of gold set upon blake velvet with stones and perles waying iii oz. di and then aboute the wacle collar is garnished with xii perles gret and small and viii ruybes. This is laid by a letter of sale to pay the iii day of Feverer. And a spasver (canopy) of sylke with iii quystenys (curtains) and iii payre of fyne shetes. This is layd bye a letter of sale to pay at Candlymas next commyng xxi<sup>li</sup>. Item, there is with the sayd Richard Walkar le 28<sup>th</sup> jour de Novembre to plegge a broche with a jyntylle woman and a hope ryng with scriptorio that lyeth for iiiii<sup>li</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to pay in the month of May next commyng.

“ Edward IV to Henry Vernon, one of the Squires of his body and the bailiff of the High Peak.

1481, October 21st. Nottingham. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. And wher as uppon a difiarence for land depending between our full welbeloved Robert Plumpton on the oon partie and his neeces on the other partie, an arbitrament is geven by our derrest brother of Gloucestre and by oure right entirely beloved therl of Northumberland and by other nobles of the north parties of this our land and as yit the lotte of particion of the said land is unappointed, we bee enformed that ye have taken distresse for us and in oure name for thomage due unto us in that behalve for the which we thanke you. Natheless foras-much as I wolbe about the feast of Pasche next comenyng or that the landes be departed accordingly to the same artitremnt. We therefor wol and charge you that upon the sight hereof ye deliver the said distresse as shall be thought unto you sufficient for thomage due unto us in that partie without eny defaulte in you of the premises, as ye entend to please us. Geven under our signet at oure castle of Nottingham the xxth day of October.  
Sign Manual.

Henry Vernon had apparently been appointed Bailiff of the High Peak, and this refers to some dispute about land. To the same belongs the following letter.

“ Edward IV to Henry Vernon, one of the squires of his body.

N.Y. May 5. London. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele, and for as much as we have taken unto our handes the determinacion and appoing of differences deppending bitwone you and theym that to you belong on the oon partie and John Stanley and William Troutbek and those personnes that to theym apparteyne on the other, we wol and in our most straictest wiese

commannde and charge you that with such tyme as we shall have settle a direction bitwene you, ye kepe and observe oure peas, not taking to bringe any . . . . . occasion what so it be til ye shall have opened your grief unto us and herd our advis and commandment uppon the same, as ye entende to shewe you of due obeissaunce anempst us and to answer with us at your uttermost perill. Latyng you witt that we have addressed our sembable lettres unto the said John Stanley and William Troutbek charging theym by the same to doo in like wiese on their behalve. Geven under our signet at our cite of London the vth day of May.

Sign Manual."

" Richard III to Henry Vernon, squire of his body.

1485. Aug. 11. Beckwood Lodge. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. Forasmuch as our rebelles and traitours accompanied with our anncient enemye of Fraunce and other strange nacions departed out of the water of Sayn (Seine) the first day of the present month making their corres westwarde bee landed at Nangle besides Mylfod Haven in Wales on Sunday last passed, and we bee credibly enformed entending our utter destruccion, thextreme subversion of this oure realme and disinheriting of oure true subgettes of the same, towards whose recounting God being our guyde we bee utterly determined in our owne persone to remove in all haste goodly that we can or may, wherefor we wol and straitly charge you that ye in your personne with such nombre as ye have promysed unto us sufficiently horsed and herveised be with us in all hast to you possible to geve with us your attendaunce without failling, all mere excuses sette apart, uppon payne of forfaicture unto us of all that ye may forfaict and loose. Geven under our signet at our lodge of Berkewood the xith August.

Sign Manual."

Edward IV was dead. He expired in 1493, Oct. 4. "He had entered public life with high promise ; a born general a born popular ruler ; sensual already and ruthless no doubt but capable of energetic action and unbending purpose ; affable and courteous, interested in art and literature, kindly to those about him, true to his ministers ; a man of great gifts mental and bodily. He died a worthless and worn out debauchee<sup>1</sup>." At the date of this

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<sup>1</sup> A. L. Smith in *Social England*.

letter Henry Tudor had already landed at Milford Haven and Richard was straining every nerve to raise forces to oppose him. The Wars of the Roses have been described as a fight between the leading nobles nominally for King Henry or King Edward but really for their own interests or personal quarrels. In each contest every great noble was attended on the field by his household and by the men raised under the system known as "livery and maintenance" by which the knights and squires of each district bound themselves to serve the great lord of the neighbourhood in return for the promise of his protection and assistance in troubles of their own. The great lord gave his adherents his livery i.e., his badge, the white swan, the bear and ragged staff or whatever it might be, and engaged to maintain them and champion their needs. It has been observed that in the towns and villages life went on as usual, and the people generally took no interest in the squabbles of the great nobles.

"Henry VII to Henry Vernon, Esquire.

1485, October 17. London. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. And forasmuch as it has comme unto our knowledge that certeyne our rebelles and traitours being of litill honour or substance confedered with our auncient ennemeyes the Scottes against the naturall duties and allegeaunces made insurreccion and assemblies of our poor subgettes in the north portion of this our realme, taking Robyn of Riddesdale, Jack St. Thomalyn at Lath and Maister Mendall for their capteyns, entending if they bee of power the fynall and abversion and gode publique of this oure realme. We therefor woll and desire you that with all the power defensibly arrayed that ye can make ye doo dispose you to come with us with all haste possible to geve your attendaunce and assistance with us for the repressing of the malicious entent of our saide rebelles and traitours, not failing hereof in any wise upon the feyth and legiaunce that ye owe and bere unto us. Geven at our cite of London the xvii day of October."

Sign Manual.

Richard III had been slain at Bosworth. Henry Tudor

had marched from Milford Haven, crossed the Severn at Shrewsbury; at Newport he was joined by the Talbots with whom no doubt marched Henry Vernon, and by the Stanleys at Atherton and on the 22nd August, 1485, he defeated the royal forces and was crowned king on the field of battle. There was much disturbance in the northern counties at the outset of Henry VII's reign, so this commission of array may have been issued for its suppression.

“ Henry VII to Sir Henry Vernon.

1492, April 13th. Sheen. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. Ascertynyng you that for the singular trust that we have in your approved trowth and wisdom we have appoynted you to be Comptroller of household with our derest son the Prince, entending by Goddes grace that he shal procede to the begynning of the same the vii day of May next commyng. Wherefor we pray you that ye wil fully dispose you to take upon you the said rowm and auctoritie and to geve your attendance in ye beggning of the said household for the good ordering and establishing of the same, desiring you that somewhat bifor the said tyme ye wol addresse you unto us to thentent that uppon convercacion we may show unto you our mind concernyng the premisses more at large, not failing hereof in any wise, as we specially trust you. Geven under our signet at our manoir of Sheen the xiii day of April, the seventh year of our reigne. Sign Manual.

Another letter from Henry VII succeeds this, asking Sir H. Vernon for the loan of £100.

There can be no doubt that Vernon must have given substantial help to Henry Tudor as we find him in high favour with the new monarch. Prince Arthur resided principally at Ludlow Castle but tradition asserts that he sometimes stayed with his guardian at Haddon, where a room is still called the prince's chamber. At the date of this letter Prince Arthur was only five years old so Sir Henry must have been a sort of dry nurse to him.

“ Henry VII to Sir Henry Vernon.

1492, Aug 31. Windsor. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. And inasmoche as we have appointed you to be Comptroller of household with our derrest son the Prince and that we depart in all hast on our voyage over the see, we therefor desire and praye you that ye wol give your personell attendaunce upon our said derrest son for the tyme we shalbe out of this our reame, and that ye faile not hereof as we truste you. Geven under our signet at our Castel of Windesor the last day of August viii of our reyne.  
Sign Manual.”

Henry had announced his intention of making war in person against France and was preparing to sail when the arrival of Perkin Warbeck made him relinquish his intention.

“ Henry VII to Sir Henry Vernon.

1494, June 2nd. Sheen. Trusti and welbeloved I grete you wele. And for the true and acceptable service that ye have done to our derrest son the Prince we can you special thanks, and considre well that by your wise and politik means his household is the better conducted and governed which is greatly to your laude and praise. And therefor we pray you to dispose you to contynue and geve your personell attendaunce there at such seasons as the Counsail of our said son shal thinke necessarie and expedient for thencrease of your said thanke.

Sign Manual.”

“ Henry VII to Sir Henry Vernon, Knt.

1503, May 6. Richmond. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. And forasmouche as accordinge to the treatie and convencion passed between us and our derrest son the King of Scottes, and of late at his special desire and instance we have ordeyned and determyned our moost dere daughter the Quene of Scottes to be delivered into Scotland for her traduction and the solampnisacion of matrimoney betwixt the said King and hir by the first of August next. We willing as wel for the performauce of one promyse made at that behalve as also for the honour of us and of this our realme our said daughter to bee honourably accompanied as in like caas it hath been heretofor accustomed not only by hir conveyance throughout our said reame, and at hir entree into Scotland, but also during the feest of the solempnicacion of the said marriage, have appointed you

amongst other nobles and estates to geve your attendaunce upon hir at hir commyng to our cite of Yorke, and from thence to contynue the same til the said marriage and feest bee done and finished. Wherefor we wol and desire you to prepare yourself for the entente with as smal a number as ye that thinke convenient, so that ye may bee in arredinesse to entre with your said attendaunce upon our said doughter at hir commyng to Yorke foresaid without any failing as ye tender the honour of us and this oure reame. Over this inasmuch as it is thought unto us and our counsail inconvenient and not mete that any mornyng or sorofull clothings should be woran or used at such a noble triumph of marriage, we therefor wol and desire you tattende upon our said doughter in your best arraye as in such case it apperteigneth.

Geven under our signet at our manoir of Richmond the vi day of May. Sign Manual.

Vernon had been present at the wedding of Prince Arthur with Katherine of Aragon and had been created a Knight of the Bath. Further honours awaited him. The Princess Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII, had been betrothed to James, King of Scotland, and although she was only 14 years old it was decided to send her to Scotland for the celebration of the marriage. She was accompanied by a large and distinguished company of lords and ladies in which Sir Henry Vernon was included. The Princess was conducted by the Earl of Kent, Lords Strange, Hastings and Willoughby as far as York where Vernon joined the party, and from thence under the command of the Earls of Surrey and Northumberland the joyous cavalcade escorted the youthful princess to Lamberton kirk and to Edinburgh, where the marriage was solemnized by the Archbishop of Glasgow. "The English lords and ladyes returned to their countrye gevyng more preyse to the manhood than to the good maner and nurture of Scotland<sup>1</sup>." As neither Edward VI nor the queens Mary and Elizabeth left

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<sup>1</sup> *Halls Chronicle.*

any heirs James of Scotland claimed the English throne by right of his descent from Margaret Tudor who was his great-grandmother.

“ Henry VIII to Sir Henry Vernon.

N.Y., Jan. 15th. Greenwich. Trusti and welbeloved we grete you wele. Forasmuch as entend to send with all deligence an armye unto the see for the defence of our reame against oure outward enemyes we therefor wol that ye with diligence upon the sight hereof prepaire and arredy the number of a hundred tal men hable for the warre sufficiently harnesssed and to send them to Greenwich the 8th day of March here and then to be mustered, and soo to passe the see under the retynue of suche persone as we shall appoint and in the near season that ye doo send some persone to receive money for their conduct and jaketts, and of your towardness herein to ascertaigne us in writing by the xvth day of this next month of February without any failing as ye tender the honour suertie and defence of us and of our said reame, and woll have more largely our favour for the same hereafter. Geven under our signet at our manoir of Greenwich xy day of January. Sign Manual.”

There is no date to this letter, but it must have been written either in 1512 or 1513 when Henry VIII invaded France which years contained the defeat of the French at the Battle of the Spurs, the capture by Henry in person of Tournay, Terouenne, and the overwhelming ruin of the Scotch at Flodden.

Sir Henry Vernon died April 15th, 1515 and was buried in Tong Church where there is a fine altar tomb with effigies of both him and his wife. Sir Henry wears a collar of mail, and under his cuirass of plate armour a skirt of mail: the S.S. collar encircles his neck. He inherited Tong from his ancestor Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, and his ashes repose between those of his father and grandfather. He rebuilt the Castle of Tong, and founded the chantry called The Golden Chapel which still retains some of the gilding which gave it its name. On the east wall of the chapel are traces of a fresco representing the



Crucifixion, and underneath an inscription requesting prayers for the souls of "Syr Harie Vernon, Knyght and Dame Annie hys wyfe" and for the soul of Syr Arthur Vernon, Pryst. Sir Arthur was the 5th and youngest son of Sir Henry Vernon. In the belfry of the church is still hung the Big Bell about which the legend is that Sir Henry was benighted in the forest of Brewood, and although he could hear the bells of Tong the music was so faint that for a long time he could not tell in which direction the village lay. When at last he reached the castle, he determined to give the church a bell which could be heard afar, so he ordered the Big Bell to be cast, and a charge was put on the manor of Tong Norton to pay for it being rung whenever a Vernon came to Tong.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For a copy of his will see vol. xviii, p. 81, of this *Journal*.