

## Relics of the Civil War in Derbyshire.

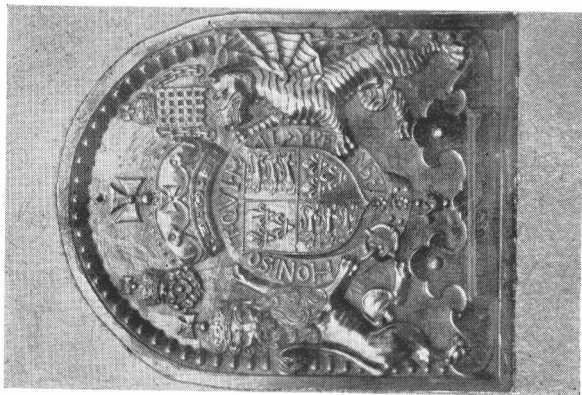
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By T. L. TUDOR.

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THE three coats of arms here illustrated were discovered many years ago (probably about 1847) in a disused room of the ancient hall of Weston-on-Trent. The finder appears to have been a Mr. Towle who lived there at the time. They had been painted blue when found, and attempts to discover their heraldic characters went far afield. It has always been a tradition that General Fairfax occupied the hall during the Civil War and stabled his horses in the basement, which is surprisingly spacious. No further effort appears to have been made to explain the armorial bearings and the shields or cartouches remained unnoticed until recent years. They eventually came into the hands of a Mrs. Porter, of Chellaston, who kindly gave permission to the writer of this note to photograph them.

These photographs were sent to Sir Algernon Tudor-Craig, K.B.E., F.S.A., the heraldic adviser to "Apollo," in which journal they were noticed and explained on page 160 of the September number (1938). These explanations are here given and all due acknowledgment is here made for permission to reproduce two of the photographs, and details of the three. The arms of King Henry VIII were not illustrated with the notes of explanation, being usually well understood. The royal arms and badges appear in our first illustration. All the shields are of carved wood, they are at the present



I.

1. Royal Arms and Badges of Henry VIII.



2.

2. Crest and coronet of Henry, 5th Earl of Huntingdon.



3.

3. Coronet and Arms, quarterly of twelve of Henry, 5th Earl of Huntingdon.



time in good preservation. Their dimensions are given below.

“Apollo” (Sept. 1938) reference D 40 (page 160). Arms on three carved cartouches. *Circa* 1600.

1. Royal Arms and Badges of Henry VIII (Plate VIII, 1). About 32 inches high. Distinguished from the arms of Henry VII by having as supporters a Lion and Dragon, instead of Lion and Greyhound. HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE. Badges, a rose of York + Lancaster and a portcullis, both crowned. Crosses-patée on the crown, badges, and lion supporter.

2. Crest and coronet of Henry, 5th Earl of Huntingdon. Ram's head rising from a coronet. Motto, “HONORANTES ME HONORABO.” (Plate VIII, 2). Sixteen inches high.

3. Coronet and Arms, quarterly of twelve of Henry 5th Earl of Huntingdon; (1) Hastings; (2) Pole; (3) Stanley; (4) Lathom; (5) Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence; (6) Neville; (7) Strange; (8) Lusignan; (9) Montagu; (10) Beauchamp; (11) Molines; (12) Valoines. (Plate VIII, 3). 21 inches high.

The second son of Henry 5th Earl of Huntingdon was General Henry Hastings, a distinguished Royalist who figured prominently in the Civil War. In 1643 (as Colonel Hastings) he assisted Sir John Harpur in the defence of Swarkeston Bridge, and was defeated by Sir John Gell, leader of the Parliamentary forces. In 1645 he was made Governor of Leicester. About this time his parental home, Ashby Castle, was taken, and it is probable that the shields above illustrated were amongst the loot captured by the soldiery of General Fairfax, and abandoned on their departure from Weston. There were numerous skirmishes in the neighbourhood of the Trent, but little activity of real military importance. An entry in the church registers of Weston-on-Trent states that soldiers of the garrison were buried in the churchyard (1644).

Weston-on-Trent hall is an immense unfinished structure in brick, with stone facings, dating from early in the 17th century. It was commenced by a member of the Roper family but was sold in an unfinished state to the Holdens, who held it until 1898. Robert Holden, of Shardlow, was the purchaser (1647); Edward Holden the vendor (1898). Extensive remains of a large moat surround the house. This moat is under the attention of the Ancient Monuments Board (Domestic Earthworks). The house has had various tenants and its ancient features have not always been respected. An old lead fire insurance plate, fixed on the exterior over a century ago, is still in place.

The house is now, and has been for many years past, the homestead of a large farm.