

RICHARD KIDDER, BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS,  
AND THE KIDDERS OF MARESFIELD.

BY THE REV. EDWARD TURNER.

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AMONG the Sussex families whose descent may be traced from an early period to the present time, and who have risen from circumstances comparatively humble to positions of considerable eminence and importance, is that of the Kidders of Maresfield, in the Register Books of which parish the name frequently occurs. These registers commence with the year 1538, and the earliest events recorded in them are connected with this family. That the Kidders were of respectable standing as yeomen in the parish, may be inferred from the circumstance that they held from time to time some of the principal parochial offices, such as guardians of the poor, churchwardens, &c.; and where the names of sponsors are entered in the same register books, which is the case from 1571 to 1585, they are associated in this capacity with some of the leading gentry of the neighbourhood in the record of baptisms of the children of such parents as ranked above the common class. One of the family is also sometimes designated "the bayliffe," at other times, *vulgo*, "the bayly," by which I understand the holder of a crown office connected with the extensive forest of Ashdown, or perhaps with that part of it only which was enclosed by John à Gaunt as a royal park, and which was called on that account "Lancaster Great Park," much of which was in Maresfield. Of this office the heads of the Kidder family were perhaps the hereditary possessors. Even so late as the time of Charles I. large herds of deer were kept up in the different enclosures, into which, for the accommodation of the different ages and sexes, this park was divided, as is still indicated by the names Hartfield

and Hartwell, Buckhurst, Buckstead and Buckstye, Hindover and Hindleap, Kidbrook, &c., which are all of them places in the immediate vicinity of what now remains of this once extensive forest tract. As "the bayliffe" was, according to Manwood,<sup>1</sup> the principal superintendent of the forest and its subordinate officers under the verderer, the name Kidder may possibly have been originally derived from the nature of the duties imposed upon him as the holder of this office. Mr. F. Kidder, of Boston, U.S., one of this family, informs me that there is a coat of arms, "which," to use his own words, "I trace in our family for over a hundred years, but do not find it in any book on heraldry. It is cut in stone. The principal figures are three kids or deer. There is no crest or motto." This seems to bear out my conjecture. Another suggestion which has been advanced is this: the name has been variously spelt at different times. In some documents of an early date it is written Kyddwr; and this has led to the supposition that the family were of very early Welsh extraction, and that the name is compounded of two Celtic words, *Kyd*, a town situated on a hill, and *dwr*, a stream of water. Kidder is the Saxon for a dealer in corn.

But whatever might have been the derivation of the name, that the office itself in the forest was an honourable as well as a profitable one, may be inferred from its having been held at an early period by persons of rank and distinction, unconnected apparently with the county. In Wright's *History of Rutlandshire*, published in the year 1660, Sir William Durant, Knt., is called "the bayliffe of Archedown Forest, in the county of Sussex." At what date he held this office this quaint old historian does not mention; but, as Sir William lived in the reign of Edward II., he probably received the appointment from him, and might have been the first "bayliffe" after the formation of Lancaster Great Park. The family of Durant held large possessions in the county of Rutland.

The residence of the Kidder family is sometimes called in old writings "the Hole," at other times "the Hole House," and "the Pool," and when Latinized, "de la Stagno," which are all names very descriptive of its situation in a deep forest

<sup>1</sup> Manwood's *Treatise of the Laws of the Forest*, &c.

dell, a considerable portion of which was evidently once occupied by water. Of this pool a part still remains, called "the Lake"; and the adjoining property, which, if it was not the entire, was, no doubt, parcel of the Kidder patrimonial estate, is now called "Lampool." The house, which was of a moderate size, and possessed no claim to architectural notice, has been taken down some years. In an old manorial book belonging to Viscount Gage, lord of the manor of Maresfield, in which the property is situated, it is described as "the Hole House, and certain lands called Arthurs or Athurs, consisting of 35 acres of land, lying between Horney Common and Lampool Green, late Newnham's, before Hoath's, and formerly Kidder's."

In the annexed genealogical table, the first of the family mentioned in the Maresfield Register is Richard Kidder of the Hole, who was buried in 1549; but his father, we learn from other sources, was resident in the parish in 1492. The family indeed may be traced back as landowners in Maresfield to the time of Edward II. On the Subsidy Roll for Sussex, 6 Edward III., 1332, the name appears as follows: "Simon at Hole *js. j½d.*" And again, 13 Eliz. (1570-1), "John Kydder, lands *xxs.*" "John Kydder, J<sup>r</sup>., lands *xxs.*" In the Muster Roll, *temp.* Henry VIII., the name frequently occurs, but is usually written Kether, which arose probably from the name being entered as it was usually pronounced.

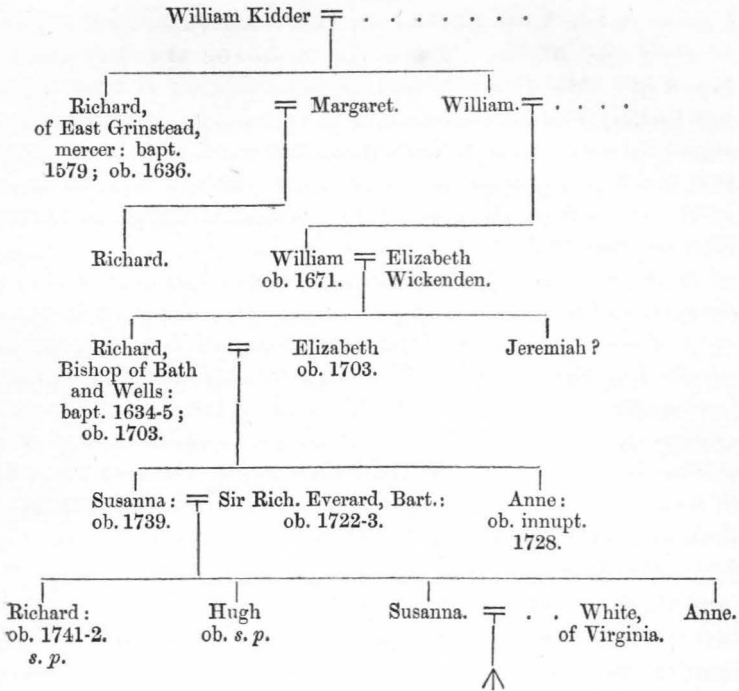
From the Manorial Books we learn also that other members of the Kidder family were copyholders in Maresfield. At a court held September 12th, 1599, William Kidder of Maresfield, was presented as dying seized of two parcels of land called the Scope and the Steake. In 1606, William Kidder of London is mentioned as a tenant owing suit and service; and Richard Kidder surrendered a copyhold called Adderal's Fields, containing 12 acres. At a court held the next year, Richard Kidder of the Hole was one of the homage, and Richard Kidder was presented as dying seized of a cottage and half an acre of land called the Slype. In 1608, Philip Kidder surrendered a messuage, barn, and garden, called Moyses, and 40 acres of assart land and other lands in Maresfield, to Barnabas Hodgson, a large ironfounder. There are entries in the same records of the deaths, surrenders, and

admissions of many other Kidders as tenants of the same manor previous to the year 1722. In that year John Kidder surrendered lands held by him to Andrew Gatland, and he appears to have been the last copyholder in it; and it is probable that he was the last of the family connected with the parish, for from that time to this the name of Kidder has ceased to exist in Maresfield. Among the MSS. *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (i. 95, Sussex, 42 Eliz.) is the record of an Inquisition taken at East Grinstead, January 2, 1600, before sundry jurors, who say, that John Kidder died June 21st, in the year preceding, and that at the time of his death he was seized of a demesne, as of fee, of and in a messuage, barn, stable, garden, orchard, and 80 acres of land with the appurtenances, in Marysfield, called Rolfe Colvyells, formerly Frytters; and that the said messuage and premises were held of our said Lady the Queen "ut de honore suo de Aquila per servicium militare, sed per quantam partem feodi militis juratores predicti ignorant; et valent per annum, ultra reprisalia, 20s." A farm adjoining the Pool, or Lampool Farm, is still called the Frytter Bank, and is probably the land here alluded to. By his will dated 1650, and proved in 1651, Drew Kidder of Maresfield, yeoman, devises his estate, called Kenates, to his son John; and other lands, together with a house in Maresfield Street, to his younger son Drew.

Richard Kidder, who died in 1549, had three sons. Richard, the eldest of these, had a large family, the five first-born of which were sons; and the descendants of the three eldest of these attained in different ways to considerable eminence. The elder branch continued to reside at Maresfield until the commencement of the eighteenth century, but Richard, the eldest son of Thomas the second son, removed to Lewes about the year 1590, where his family continued to reside for upwards of a century, and became opulent merchants. They are mentioned in the Town Records eight times as constables of the borough, the first appointment being in 1586, and the last in 1657. In Rowe's MS. of the customs of different manors in Sussex, they are represented as living in All Saints parish. "Lewes Burgus, Parochia omnium sanctorum, pars borealis, Thomas Kydder, pro tenemento, &c. Pars Australis, Richardus Kydder, pro tenemento, &c." Again, at

pages 73, 74, of the present volume, Richard Kidder is stated, in 1621, to have held goods valued £3. 5*s.* in Lewes Burrowe, and lands valued at £20. 2*s.* 8*d.* in Southover Burrowe. The Thomas Kydder here alluded to was probably the father of Anne Kydder, who married George Howard of Bookham, Surrey, son of Sir Charles Howard, Knt., and brother of Francis, fifth Lord Howard of Effingham, from which marriage the present Earl of Effingham is descended.

Another member of this family removed from Maresfield to East Grinstead at a somewhat earlier period, where he settled as a tradesman. In the Subsidy Roll of the 13th of Eliz. (1570-1), under the head "Borough of East Grinstead," occurs "Thomas Kidder, lands *xxs.*;" and again, in 22 James I. (1624-5), "Hundred of East Grinstead, Richard Kidder, lands *xxs.*" In the East Grinstead register books the name first appears in 1571, about seven years after they commence. Among the wills to be found in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury is that of Richard Kidder of East Grinstead, mercer, who was baptised there in 1579. He is called the son of William Kidder, and died in 1636. His will was proved May 30th of the same year, by Margaret, his widow, in which he mentions an estate which descended to him as the heir of Elizabeth, the daughter of Jeremiah Kidder. In 1671 the will of William Kidder of East Grinstead, dated 1669, was proved at Exeter House, in the Strand, before Sir Leoline Jenkyns. He is probably son of the person mentioned in Richard Kidder's will as "my brother William." In the entry of his burial he is described as of Sackville College, so that he must have lived to become a decayed tradesman. By his wife, whose name before marriage was Elizabeth Wichenden, he had a numerous family, for whom, as they grew up, he was able to do but little, his kind and generous disposition, which led him to become surety for others, having brought him into so great straits and difficulties, that he was compelled to sell the small estate he had, on which account, probably, we find him an inmate of the college. But, notwithstanding the difficulties with which he had to contend, their son Richard became a distinguished member of the Established Church, and eventually Bishop of Bath and Wells.



It is somewhat remarkable, and to be attributed perhaps to his being the son of very humble parents, that the birthplace of so eminent a divine should have been for many years involved in obscurity and doubt: some asserting that he was born at Lewes; Willis, and others, at Brighthelmstone. Even the county of which he was a native was by no means a certainty, the author of the Supplement to Collier's *Dictionary* asserting that he was born in Suffolk; while Chalmers, in his *Biographical Dictionary*, calls him "a very learned English bishop, born, as Wood says, in Sussex, but, as others say, in Suffolk." That he was a native of Sussex the inscription on his tomb in Wells Cathedral expressly states—

"Cui dedit  
Incunabula Sussexiensis ager."

And that he was born at East Grinstead in the year 1633-4, he himself tells us in an autobiographical memoir which he left of himself, and which was in the hands of the Rev. J. H.

Casson, when he published, in 1829, his *Lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells*; since which time the MS. has not been heard of. Mr. Casson's widow, who appears to have assisted her husband as an amanuensis in the compilation of his book, states, in reply to a letter addressed to her on the subject, that she has a perfect recollection of making extracts from it at the time he was engaged in preparing his work for publication, but that she has now no knowledge of what became of it afterwards. Its loss is much to be deplored, for, in the extracts published, it is quite evident that he availed himself only of such parts of the MS. as had reference to the bishop's public life, though it could not fail to contain much interesting matter connected with his private history. A search among Mr. Casson's books and papers, now in charge of his widow at Bruton, may, at some future day, bring the lost MS. to light, or reveal to us what is become of it. That it was in Bishop Law's library at Wells, in the year 1830, we learn from Mr. Bowles's Introduction to his *Life of Bishop Ken*, published in that year, in which he expresses his thanks to that prelate for the information he was permitted to obtain from it, and adds, "This work, never printed, is a very curious and valuable document preserved in the Episcopal Library at Wells." In this autobiographical memoir the bishop says, "I was born at East Grinstead in 1633, and baptised there in February. I think the register hath it on the 8th." Here the bishop's statement is not quite correct, the entry in the East Grinstead register being as follows: "1633, February 9th, Richard, son of William and Elizabeth Kidder." "I was," the bishop continues, "the 8th child of my parents, who had 9 children, eight whereof lived to the age of men and women, and the greater part of them to more than 60. My father was a man of great diligence and industry, and made a shift, with a little estate of his own and some land that he hired, to give his children a decent education." In the will of William, the father, he is stated to have been a saddler. His mother, he says, was "a woman of great piety and sanctity, of much wisdom and diligence." Having been educated by a Mr. Reyner Harman, a German by birth, and a man of very superior classical attainments, whom he describes as a Sussex incumbent, he was first placed with an apothecary at Seven-

oaks, in Kent, but afterwards sent at the expense of private persons, who discerned in him abilities of a superior order, to Emanuel College, Cambridge. He was admitted a sizar of the college in 1649, was made A.B. in 1652, A.M. and Fellow in 1656, and thus fully realized the expectations that were formed of him, and D.D. in 1689. His first preferment was the college living of Stanground, in Huntingdonshire, from which he was ejected for nonconformity in 1662, having held the living ten years; but, on his conforming shortly after, the Earl of Essex gave him the living of Rayne, in Essex, which he vacated two years after, having been elected by the Merchant Tailors' Company to the rectory of St. Mary Outwich, London, in their patronage. In 1681 he was made a prebendary of Norwich Cathedral; in 1689, he was appointed to the deanery of Peterborough, which had become vacant by the appointment of Simon Patrick to the see of Chichester; and upon the deprivation of Ken, and Beveridge's refusal of the bishopric of Bath and Wells, he was appointed to that see. Here he met with a most melancholy end, having been killed at Wells by the fall of a stack of chimneys through the roof of the palace, which were blown down in the great storm of wind, Nov. 26th or 27th, 1703. His wife was killed at the same time, being found dead in bed, and the bishop dead on the floor, a short distance from it.<sup>2</sup> The bishop must have married while he held the living of Stanground; for, in his memoir of himself, he complains bitterly of the inconvenience, after he was deprived of this living, of being without clerical income with an increasing family.

Of his numerous children, two daughters only survived him, the greater part of his family having died of the Essex fever during the time he was the incumbent of Rayne. The younger, Anne, died single at Kensington. Her will is dated April 30th, 1728, and was proved May 16th following. By it she directs her body to be buried in the cathedral church of Wells, at an expense not exceeding £100; and she directs her executors to expend a farther sum of £300 in erecting a monument to the memory of her father and mother, for which she suggests a short English inscription; but this part of her will was not complied with, as the inscription on the tomb is

<sup>2</sup> Landsdowne MSS. le Neve, in the British Museum.



a very long Latin one. The elder daughter married, in 1706, Sir Richard Everard, Baronet, of Langley, in Essex, one of the early governors of North Carolina, who lived and died in Virginia, and whose descendants are among the most distinguished families in that state. Of these may be mentioned, as worthy of special notice, Richard Kidder Mead, a member of Congress; and Bishop Mead, the head of the Episcopal Church in that state. To her sister Susanna Everard, Anne Kidder devises all her real estate, and, among other lands, "my farme at Heathfield, in the county of Sussex;" and, by a codicil, she gives legacies to her sister's four children.

George, the grandson of Thomas, removed from Maresfield to London about the time that the descendants of Richard, Thomas's elder brother, left Maresfield for Lewes; and he was the founder of the London and Irish branch of the family. At what time he migrated from Maresfield to London with his family is not exactly known; nor am I able to connect the London branch one with another in regular succession. At this distant period of time they are not to be known otherwise than individually by their wills. Referring, then, to these documents, and taking them, as far as we can, in the order of their date, we find the will of a John Kidder proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1647: in it he is described as of St. Anne's, Blackfriars. The business in which he was engaged is not mentioned. Among the London *Tradesmen's Tokens*, published by Mr. J. Y. Akerman, are two with the name. One has in three lines across the field, "William Kidder, 1666, in Blackfriars," and in the field, W. K.; the other is without date, and has across the field, "Susan Kidder, Sempster, Southampton Buildings," and in the field "S. B. K. Semster." The will of Thomas Kidder, of London Bridge, citizen and merchant tailor, was proved in 1656. He must have been a man of some wealth, for he left considerable sums of money to his widow and to each of his four children. His grey and chestnut geldings he gave to his brothers, Richard and Edward; and to his lovyng friend and neighbour John Worger his ring, with a death's head on it. He also gave legacies of money and clothes to his servants. He was probably of the Lewes branch. The will of William Kidder was proved in 1665, in which he is described

as a "citizen of London, weaver." Among other bequests he gives a small sum "to the poor of St. Buttolph's, Aldgate." The will of Richard Kidder of London, citizen and merchant tailor, dated January 10th, 1680, was proved in 1681, and directs rings of 10s. a piece value to be given to such of his friends as may attend his funeral, the charges of which he limits to £100, or thereabouts, which implies considerable opulence. The will of a Jeremiah Kidder, described as "late of St. Paul's, Covent Garden," was proved in 1697, and his widow Mariana's in 1715. He probably was the son of William Kidder, of East Grinstead, and a brother of the bishop. There are also extant wills of Nicholas Kidder, of Greenwich, in 1697-8, and others of later date.

Another resident in London who became a man of some notoriety was Edward Kidder, a pastrycook, or, as he called himself, "pastry-master," who carried on his business in Queen Street, Cheapside. So important an accomplishment was the art of making pastry considered in his day, that it was not unfrequently taught in schools established for the purpose. This induced him to open two such schools, one at his own place of business, and the other in Holborn. He also gave instruction to ladies at their private houses. So popular did his system of teaching become, that he is said to have instructed nearly 6000 ladies in this art. He also published a book of *Receipts of Pastry and Cookery*, for the use of his scholars, printed entirely in copper-plate, with a portrait of himself, in the full wig and costume of the day, as a frontispiece. He died in 1739, at the age of seventy-three; and his will, dated 1734, was proved in 1739. In it he gave to his wife Mary Kidder a gold watch, a diamond ring, and all the other rings and trinkets used by her, and also all the furniture of the bedroom in which he lay in the house in Queen Street; and to his two daughters, Elizabeth and Susan, he bequeathed all his money, Bank stock, plate, jewellery, &c. His daughter Elizabeth's will was proved in 1758, and her sister Susan's in 1768. Susan, amongst other bequests, gave to her cousin George Kidder, of Canterbury, pastrycook, £50, and her copper-plates for the receipt-book.

What business George Kidder followed in London I have been unable to ascertain; but it was probably that of a silver-

smith, in which his son Vincent was certainly engaged in the year 1650. During the Commonwealth this Vincent Kidder joined the Parliamentary forces under Cromwell, and was actively engaged in the reduction of Ireland. He was an enterprising and successful officer, and attained to the rank of a major in the army. A grant of 1000 acres had been made him at Rochestown, Kilkenny, of which he was deprived at the Restoration, but which was, upon his petition, restored and confirmed to him and his heirs for ever on the 6th of October, 1676, by the commissioners appointed under the Act of Settlement, it having been proved to their satisfaction that the land in question was allotted and assigned to him, or to those for whom he claimed, for his and their services as soldiers in the late war in Ireland, and that they were in the actual possession of them May 7th, 1659.<sup>3</sup> He married Ellen, daughter of Adam, second son of Sir Thomas Loftus, Bart., of Kyllian, county Meath, and grand-daughter of Adam Loftus, Archbishop of Dublin, and Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1678. By her mother, who was the daughter of Richard Cosby, of Stradbally, Esq., she was lineally descended from Thomas of Woodstock, seventh son of Edward III. Adam, their eldest son, who married Cecilia, daughter of Thomas, and grand-daughter of Sir Dudley Loftus, and who resided at Parke, county Meath, was attainted by James II. in the memorable Parliament held in Dublin, 1693. In the will of his widow, proved in 1735, he is described as "Lieut. Adam Kidder, of General Steward's regiment of foot." Vincent, their second son, who pursued his father's business of a silversmith, was a lieutenant in Captain Collingham's company of Irish Volunteers, and greatly distinguished himself at the battle of the Boyne, for which he was made a colonel; and hence the adoption of the word "Boyne" as a motto to their coat of arms.

"January 15th, 1810. Grant of coat of arms under the seal of Ulster King at Arms, to the descendants of Vincent Kidder:—

Vert—3 crescents—or—2 and 1.

Crest—A hand couped below the elbow proper valed azure holding a packet, thereon the word 'standard.'

<sup>3</sup> Certificates of Adventurers, roll 24, memb. 25.

Motto—'Boyne.'

"Recorded in the College of Arms, London, May 22, 1827."

The arms on Bishop Kidder's tomb in Wells Cathedral are those of the family of Kyddall in Lincolnshire, namely, "Sable, a saltere ragulé argent." See York's *Union of Honour*. Other authorities (Burke, and Berry) describe the saltere as "embattled, counterembattled."

Vincent was admitted a freeman of the Dublin Goldsmiths' Company in 1690, became master of the same company in 1696, and assay-master in 1697. As a mark of esteem for him a piece of plate was presented to him, in 1717, by the corporation; and his full-length portrait was for some years placed in the Goldsmiths' Hall, but is now in the Assay Office in the Custom House, Dublin. The crest of the Irish branch of the family—a hand holding an assay ticket, with the word "standard" written on it—is an allusion to the office of assay-master which Colonel Kidder held in this company. Of his eight children, Thomas alone survived him, and was ten years old at his father's death in 1736. Having been defrauded of his patrimony by his guardians, he was sent to England, and settled as a tanner in Lancashire. He had a large family. His two surviving sons, Thomas and Edward, were both citizens of London—the latter dying in 1817, the former in 1820, and both were buried at Maresfield. Of his six daughters, Anne married James Crosby, to whose son of the same name, a Fellow of the Antiquarian and a Member of the Sussex Archæological Society, I am under considerable obligations for much information embodied in this memoir.

The descendants of John, the third son of Richard, who died in 1549, appear to have left Maresfield about the time of the migration of his cousins, descended from the two elder brothers, when the spirit of enterprise seems to have taken possession of the family, and to have carried them forth into the world in search of a larger field of active utility. James, the grandson of this John, removed, about the year 1599, into the adjoining parish of East Grinstead, where the family of William Kidder had been previously settled. His son James emigrated to America in the year 1630, and, settling himself at Cambridge, was a landowner there in 1649. He married Anna, the daughter of Elder Francis Morne, one of

the most opulent and respectable residents of that place. He was probably among the first settlers in that state, where he combined a military life with the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. His descendants are now very numerous in America, being spread over the broad expanse of territory from the Penobscot to the upper Mississippi, and from Canada to Louisiana, some of whom have been legislators of the particular states to which they belong, and two have been members of Congress. By marriage they have become connected with some of the leading families in that country.

His grandson, Reuben Kidder, was the successful and popular founder of the New Ipswich colony, in Hillsbury county, New Hampshire.

Other members of the Kidder family left Maresfield, and settled themselves in the counties of Surrey, Kent, and Gloucestershire, during the seventeenth century; while the heads of the house continued to reside in their native parish, and on their slender patrimonial estate, until 1724, when the last, a hale and venerable man, died, and was buried at the advanced age of eighty-three, shortly after which the property was purchased by, and merged in the estate of, the owner of Maresfield Park.

Although the family are now so widely dispersed, yet so endeared to the different members of it is the parish of Maresfield, from whence they sprung, that as many as can be are brought to Maresfield to be interred; and their tombs, after recording the fact of their death and burial, and any remarkable events that may have happened to be connected with the history of their lives, do not fail to set forth that they were "descended from the ancient family of Kidder, of this parish."

# GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE KIDDERS OF MARESFIELD.

SIMON AT HOLE, 1332.

RICHARD KIDDER, living at Maresfield, 1492. ⚭ . . .

Richard, of "the Hole:" ob. 1549. ⚭ . . .

