

THE ANNALS OF AN ENGLISH FAMILY.

COMPILED BY THE REV. ROSE FULLER WHISTLER, M.A.,

Of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Vicar of Ashburnham, and Rector of
Penhurst, Sussex, and sometime Rural Dean.

The earlier public records are so involved and obscure that it needs an expert to understand and decipher them; no regular order is observed, and there is no index to guide the search for particulars. They consist for the most part of public documents concerning national transactions, although among them are to be found, here and there, family accounts, relating to fines or payments upon the succession to various properties; hence it is a matter of extreme difficulty to trace the position of middle-class families, while it is comparatively easy to discover that of those who have held high office in the State, or have officiated as Sheriffs of Counties, or as members of our earlier Parliaments. Where, however, smaller landed proprietors or yeomen were Lords of Manors, we find certain data to guide us in our search for information. There are the particulars of the first acquisition of these manorial rights, with the account of their transfer; and later on the *Inquisitiones post-mortem* supply material out of which the descent of families may often be determined.

Referring to these remarks, as relating to the family whose annals we are about to trace, we find the first mention of the Whistlers in:—

JOHA LE WISTLER
DE WESTHANNYE
TEMP EDW I
(1272-1307)

Afterwards we meet with :—

RIC WHYSTELERE DE WESTHANNYE AND DE WESTLAKYNGS
ET JOHĀ UẪ EJUS SEIZED OF THE MANOR DE WESTLAKYNSS
1375, 21 May.

And considering the peculiarity of the name, the identity of the localities, and the continuance of the manors in the family, there can be little doubt that the above are direct ancestors of the Whistler of Fowlescourt, although the obscurities and comparative meagreness of material of the annals render it difficult to trace the immediate connection. Thenceforward no doubt remains, but all is clear, and by means of wills, inquisitions, visitations, Chancery proceedings, parochial records and registers, we are able to chronicle a complete history of the family from a time prior to the Reformation to the present day. And this appears to be noteworthy, that this middle-class race has pursued the even tenor of its way, with no great advancement, and no conspicuous fall; that its members have been uniformly well educated, generation after generation receiving University training—a proof that the middle way is the enduring way—holding their own the while, but not without supplying their quota of able men and comely women to help in doing good service to the Fatherland in which the Providence of God had placed them. There is no tradition as to the origin of the name; it was probably first applied to some individual as the result of personal peculiarity; it is one of the few surnames which take their rise from a habit of an individual, and thenceforward mark his descendants through successive generations.

The family appears to have been always armigerous: but there has been a change in the crest. As now borne, it has been used by them for more than 300 years. In the Harleian MSS. (No. 1556) we find that the arms assigned to “Whistler” are “gules, five mascles in bend between two talbots passant argent with the crest a talbot passant semé de torteaux.” In a subsequent page, however, although the arms are constant, the crest is altered to a talbot’s head only, still semé de torteaux, and at the

Visitation (Co. Oxon., A.D. 1574) this is confirmed to Wm. Whistler by Sir William Segar, Garter; and thus it has been borne by the family unto the present day. In its present form it occurs in the Records of the College of Arms, in "Gwillim's Heraldry," upon very many family tombs, notably in Whitchurch, Oxon.; Aldworth, Berks; and Hastings, Sussex. It is also among the six shields which were introduced in the carved oak-work of the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, where it was placed as an acknowledgment of a benefaction of Gabriel Whistler, of Combe, then a tenant of certain College lands.¹

For many years the Whistlers were settled on either side of the River Thames, in that pleasant valley to which the railway at Pangbourne now gives ready access, and there is scarcely a village church in that district of Oxfordshire and Berkshire which fails to supply them with some family memorials. Their connection with Sussex appears to have begun with the Revd. John Whistler, Vicar of Clapham, near Worthing, who died and was buried there in 1685. His brother, Henry Whistler, of Epsom, who died in 1719, at the age of 85, was the grandfather of Jane, wife of Sir Thomas Webster, Bart., the purchaser of Battle Abbey, and of Robertsbridge Abbey and lands, and it was mainly by means of the wealth which this lady inherited from him that the Webster family acquired their Sussex possessions. In Thorpe's "Catalogue of Battle Abbey Charters" there are numerous allusions to the effect of this alliance, and many interesting particulars of family settlements and purchases. The connection was marked by the adoption of "Whistler" as a Christian name by the Websters, until, on the early death of "Whistler," the eldest son of Sir Whistler, it was exchanged for that of "Godfrey." The next member of the family who is settled in the county was the Revd. Webster Whistler, memorable in his generation as the somewhat eccentric Rector of Hastings, who, after passing his boyhood at Battle Abbey, proceeded thence to S. John's College, Cambridge, and subsequently became a well-known Sussex Incumbent, having been also Rector

¹ Cole MSS., Vol. I., page 96, Brit. Mus.

of Newtimber, near Brighton, for no less than 58 years, from 1774 to 1832. His grandson, the present writer, was for 14 years Rector of Hollington, and is now Vicar of Ashburnham and Rector of Penshurst, and by marriage with the elder daughter of the late James Watts, Esq., of Battle, his children can claim connection with many Sussex families, among others Relfe, of Ashburnham, and Longley, of Hooe, with all their local ramifications. There are, however, certain passages connected with the family prior to their settlement in Sussex, which, relating as they do to interesting public events, may fairly claim attention.

The first direct clue to a well authenticated ancestor in the direct line is found in the "Gray's Inn Records," where the following entry occurs:—

Johes Whistler filius et hæres apparens Hugonis Whistler de parva Miltonie in com. Oxon gener admissus est in sen huius hospitii iiii die Maii a^o Regni doni Regine quadragesimotertio (1601).

JAMES ALTHAM.

From the Harl. MSS., 6,365, fol. 100, we find that the Hugh Whistler here mentioned was buried in Little Haseley Church, Co. Berks, having succeeded to property in that parish (Clause 9, Jac. I., part 7, No. 1), and that the following lines were on his tomb:—

HERE LYETH Y^e BODY OF HUGH WHISTLER,
IN VIRTUE, OLD AGE, AND PATERNITY,
IN TRUST, HONOUR, & NOBILITY.

The mention of this individual in the will of Ralph Whistler, of Fowlescourt, Co. Berks (proved in Archd. of Berks, 1559), together with the *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 19 Eliz., p. 2, No. 63, leaves no doubt as to the relationship of the three members of the family here mentioned, and their descendants are very readily to be identified, and have been duly enrolled in the Royal College of Arms. With the next generation we become interested in the fortunes of four brothers, each of whom played a part of more or less importance in the stirring times of the Great Rebellion. We have John Whistler, a barrister at law, of Gray's Inn, Recorder of Oxford,

and representative of that city in four Parliaments, disabled from sitting in the Long Parliament by his having joined (as it was asserted) the King when he entered Oxford.

Then comes Ralph Whistler, also a barrister, and of Gray's Inn, a captain of Horse in the Parliamentary army—the provisions of whose will have some bearing upon the divisions of those times—a man of mark as the original colonizer of the lands in Ulster assigned to the Salters' Company, a vast tract of some 12,000 acres in the County of Londonderry, now producing to that Company a large revenue. The third brother, a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxon., is mentioned in "Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses," and was Rector of Whitchurch,² Oxon., for 56 years. The fourth was the Rev. Hugh Whistler, Rector of Facomb, Co. Hants, the possessor of the Manor of Ham, ejected from his benefice by one Tabor, and reduced to great distress in the confusion of those troublous days. Of these brothers we have abundant records, from which, however, we only select the following as possessing the most public interest, showing how brother was "divided against brother," and how there was an upheaval of all order while that civil discord raged. We quote now from "The Royalist Composition Papers," LXIX., 609 :—

To the hon^{ble} the Com^mitte at Goldsmith's Hall the humble Petition of John Whistler of Graies Inn sometimes an unworthy member of the commons house of Parliament. That he hath neither given nor lent any money horse or armes unto his Ma^{tie} nor any waies aided or assisted him in this intestine warre; only was p^sent at the meeting of some of the members of Parliament at Oxford, albeit very much against his will. ffor going into the Country to attend the execution of the Comission for regulating of forrests within the County of Oxon (being by the honble house of comons therein named a comissioner) that business (by reason of strong opposition) continued many months, and was not ended till very neere the time of the battaile of Edgehill. And before y^r Pet^r could conveniently return to London the King came from Edgehill to Oxford. At which time y^r Pete^r left the place of his habitation, and almost all

² Jac., I., 13, & A. W., 29, 33.

Whistler v. Singleton.

Dated Octr., 1617.

"The Father of Henry Whistler, B.D., rector of Whitchurch was Hugh Whistler. Hy. Whistler had a brother John."

his goods, to the spoile, and (within a short space after) was brought a prisoner to Oxford. And after hee had there given 2000£ baile with two sureties, he was taken from the cheife justices chamber, carried to prison againe, had his money, sword, watch, and horses taken from him, and continued seven weekes in prison. And during that time his house was taken from him, and a woman put in who kept a taverne, and a house of worse fame, who tore his house burnt great parte of the materialls, and spoiled and embezzled almost all his goods. And upon new baile of 2000£ with two other sureties to appeare at the Assises y^r Pet^r was again delivered. And the day before the Assises was imprisoned again, carried prisoner to Hungerford, with purpose to cause him to forfeit his baile. But (making means to have leave to appeare at the Assises) albeit nothing was objected against him, yet was his recognizance continued untill the meeting of the Parliament men at Oxford, and long after 1^o Junii 1644 y^r Petitioner gott forth of Oxford and being brought before S^r Will Waller who after exaiaio of y^r Pet^r intreated him courteously and dismissed him. Then y^r Pet^r (having no means to maintaine himselfe) went to Combe in Hampshire, and lived with his brother (who had served at Edgehill for the Parliament) until his said brother was carried away Prisoner to Winchester. And then y^r Pet^r came to another brother's house at Whitechurch within foure miles of Reading, where he continued sick some time untill he came to London and voluntarily submitted himself to Mr Speaker from Whom he stands referred unto y^r grave wisdom and consideration Most humbly referreth himselfe unto y^r goodnêss & mercy

And y^r Pet^r &c.

JOHN WHISTLER

1 Novem:

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THE ESTATE OF JOHN WHISTLER.

He hath at Little Hasely in co Oxon. lands of } about the value of	50
In Great Haseley in the same County lands of } about the value of	24
In Eaton in the County of Birks a messuage } lately burnt and lands of about the value of	58
In the pish of ffacombe in com South-senall } small pcells of land of about the value of 23 ld one of which is issueing a ppetual annuall rent of } 12 ld so that here is clearly due not above	11

By reason of the double contribution none of this hath yeilded any profit these 3 yeares

JOHN WHISTLER.

We have no means of learning the result of this petition; our only further information is as follows:—

In y^e body of y^e church,³ in y^e middle ile on a marble stone on y^e ground this inscription is engraven :—

Hic sepultus est Johannes Whistler civitate oxon. Recordator, in quatuor parliament burgess, in Gray's Inn London assessor vere doctrinæ amator et patronus in lege et evangelio constans et fidelis.

Here then we leave him, where “after life's fitful fever he sleeps well.”

The second of these brothers, to whose house the Recorder went for refuge, appears to have lived comparatively undisturbed by the civil commotions of the times. For the long period of more than half a century he was Rector of Whitchurch, where he was buried under a black marble stone, in which his armorial bearings were inserted upon white marble, with this inscription :—

Here lyeth the body of Henry Whistler Bachelor of Divinity who departed this life in the year of our Lord 1672 in the 86th year of his age having been Rector of this Parish 56 years.

In “Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses,” Vol. III., p. 962, he is thus described :—

An Oxfordshire man born, was elected scholar of Trinity College Oxford 1601 aged 16 years, and four years after that was made Fellow thereof; so that taking the degree of M.A. he entered into Holy Orders, became Rector of Little Whitnam in Berks: and about that time Rector of Whitchurch in the S. part of Oxfordshire near to which place he was born. He hath written and published a rhapsodical piece entitled, “Aim at an upshot for Infant Baptism by the Good Will of Christ as Priest Prophet and King” &c. : London 1653.⁴ He died at Whitchurch before mentioned, &c.

In Ralph Whistler we have an uncompromising Parliamentary officer, and whatever doubt there may be as to the political principles of his brothers, there can be no question of his. His will, which we subjoin, is characteristic of the man, and from it we gather that of his nephews one was of a congenial temperament, who afterwards became his heir, the husband of his only child, and the successor to the troubled inheritance of the Irish estate, the first lease of which he had acquired from the Salters' Company of London. In early life he

³ Haseley Church, co. Berks.

⁴ Dedicated to the Lord Protector, O. Cromwell.

was admitted to Gray's Inn, during the Assessorship of John Whistler, as appears from this entry :—

Fine Fine. Radulphus Whistler de Salterstown in com. London Derry infra Regna Hiber. armig. admissus est in Senetate huius hospitii sexto die Martii olim dict.

JOHN WHISTLER.

In the Parliamentary Army List we read :

The List of the Troops of Horse under the command of William Earle of Bedford : each Troop consisting of 60 Horse ; besides 2 Trumpeters, 3 Corporalls, a Sadler, and a Farrier.

11 TROOP.

C. L. Wharton.
L. Ralph Whistler.
C. Peter Ware.
Q. Nich. Battersby.

In the same corps, and under the same Colonel, there was then serving Oliver Cromwell, as a cornet, for we have :—

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C. L. St. John.
L. Marmad. Couper.
C. Oliver Cromwell.
Q. W. Wallen.

It is, therefore, reasonable to conjecture that the influence of the future Protector may have led to the acquisition by his comrade of his Irish lands. We have seen that he was present at Edgehill. We next read of him in the

List of the Field Officers chosen and appointed for the Irish Expedition by the Committee at Guild Hall London, for the Regiments of 5000 foot and 500 horse ; under the command of Philip Lord Wharton, Baron of Scarborough, Lord Generall of Ireland.

TROOPS OF HORSE.

Colonell Generall's Troop.
Captaine, Ralfe Whistler.
Cornet, Peter Ware.
Quarter-Master, Nicholas Battersby.
Corporals { Conyers Coopers.
Bartho. Johnson.
Ralph Henery.

Other particulars of our Roundhead trooper are found in connection with their Irish lands in the Books of the

Salters' Company, which contain much interesting matter relating to the original plantation of Ulster.⁵ We have instructions to "Mr. Counsellor Whistler" to prepare a Lease for "his brother Captain Whistler the company's Tenant."⁶ We have the particulars of the renewal of this lease to his nephew Gabriel "for 100 years for a fine of 500£, 100 a year and a good fat buck."⁷ We find that the estate was of vast extent, comprising no less than 22,015 Irish acres, producing (in 1844) a rental of £16,153; that it remained in the Whistler family for 130 years, and after passing through the hands of the Bateson and Londonderry families finally reverted to the Salters' Company in 1853. To this tract of country we learn that Ralph Whistler betook himself, and there his active life came unexpectedly to end. "He went over" to Ireland "and suddenly died there." He was buried in the church of Magharafelt, Co. Londonderry, and his tomb, of curious construction, was lately removed to a new church which took the place of one which the Whistlers built, and upon it is this inscription, surmounted by the family arms:—

H. S. E.
 RADULPHUS WHISTLER ARMIGER
 qui obiit
 Feb. 23. 1657.

The will of Ralph Whistler, Esquire, of Combe, dated 15 Dec., 1656:

I Ralphe Whistler of Salterstowne in the County of Londonderry in the Kingdom of Ireland now of Combe in Hampshire give my body to the earth to be buried in the Church Yard of Combe close to the chancel or thwart the chancel door if I dye at Combe. Imprimis I give to my good friend Maior Timothy Crosse⁸ marchant in Bishops-gate Street London . . . to all my servants, men and maydes half

⁵ 1627, 6 Sept., the Court ordered a map of the estate of Capt. Whistler.

⁶ 1628, 22 Sept.

⁷ 1630, 28 June, granted to Ralph Whistler 12 old armouries and one barrel powder and all the Jacks.

⁸ "A list of the Names of the officers in chief of foot and horse the Train of Artillery and other officers under the command of his excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax.

For the Train:

Colonel Rainsborough
 Lieutenant Colonel Bowen
 Major Done, slain at Sherborne
 Major Crosse, slain there
 &c., &c."

a yeares wages to each . . . to the Parish Church of Combe twenty shillings. Item I give to my brother Henry Whistler of Whitchurch in recompense of all his burdences to me Thirteen pence halfpenny, and my brother Hugh thirteen pence halfpenny. Item I give to my brother Hugh twenty shillings. Item I give to my brother Hugh his children that are unmarried Twenty pounds, and to as many of his children that are married twenty shillings to each, excepting my cosen⁹ Gabriel Whistler to whom I am obliged for his truth to mee in my troubles wherefore I give to my cosen Gabriel Whistler all my land at Eaton in Berkshire now in the tenure and occupation of Henry Mitchell and Martin Bosh, and I give to my cosen Gabriel Whistler more a hundred pounds. Item I give to my daughter Ann Whistler & her heires my two yard lands at fawcombe as also my lease at Combe farme and my freehold at Balemor as also the lease of the Salters proportion in the County of Londonderry in Ireland . . . and my will is, and earnest desire, that my cosen Gabriell Whistler doe marry my daughter Ann Whistler as soon as she be marriageable . . . my wife Elizabeth . . . my daughter Ann Whistler my full and sole executrix."

On the 4th May, 1658 :—

Letters of administration issued forth unto Gabriell Whistler the lawfull husband and curator to Ann Whistler a minor the daughter and sole executrix named in the last will and testament of Ralphe Whistler of Salterstowne &c.

Of this marriage there was no issue. Gabriel Whistler in due course succeeded to the large properties of his uncle;¹⁰ but how perplexing his troubled inheritance

⁹ Nephew; the use of the word cousin here implies any collateral relationship more remote than that of brother or sister. So in *Romeo and Juliet*: "Tybalt my cousin! Oh! my brother's child."—Act iii., Scene i.

¹⁰ He built Magharafelt Church, and the Bawn or small castle, the remains of which are to be seen on the shores of Lough Neagh. With reference to this ruin there is a note by Henry Kemble, Esq., dated 2 Sept., 1830, and addressed to the Salters' Company:—"Approaching Ballymolderry the ruins of Whistler's Castle are an object of interest, but the day was too far advanced to examine them as I wished."

Speaking of this ruin, the Rector of Magharafelt writes to Edward W. Whistler, Esq., of Colchester, in August, 1857:—"The ruin which Mr. Kemble speaks of still remains, and is indeed a very fine specimen of the old Bawns (Ballia) in which the first Saxon settlers fortified themselves against the savage Aborigines. The locality is called Salterstown. It stands on the very edge of Lough Neagh, and is washed by its waves. And it is a curious fact that the only hops I have ever seen in Ireland grow wild in the hedges of this place, relics, doubtless, of the old colonists who brewed their own beer. There is a round tower-like structure in good preservation, but of course devoid of floors. This is connected with another less perfect by a portion of wall still showing the holes where the floor posts were inserted, and enough of other walls to show that the building was square with perhaps four such other corner towers. The intermediate space or area of the old house is now used as a flower garden. . . . There are many families in this neighbourhood who boast that their 'Forbears' came over with Ralph Whistler, and that they still occupy the grounds originally assigned to them. The old monument in our Parish Church is a curious structure. You have the Epitaph (*justus et fidelis*) correctly copied; it is surmounted with the coat of arms. I purpose removing it, for its preservation, to the new Church now nearly completed. . . ."

proved to be the subjoined letter shows, which, as it is of some historic interest, we give (almost) in its entirety as it is printed in the private records of the Salters' Company. We have the notice of burial in the register of Combe:—

Gabriel Whistler, Esqr: was buried the 14th Augt. 1710.

The following letter was written by Mr. Gabriel Whistler, the Company's Tenant in the year 1691, in reply to an application made to him for Rent.

“HONORED LANDLORDS,

“I lately received a letter from Mr. Redmayne your clerk, wherein he writes, that he had presented my letter to you, and that you were pleased to order him to give this answer to me, that you were credibly informed, that my losses in Ireland were not what I had in my letter represented unto you, and that I had got 2 or £3,000 by insurances upon your estate. There I beseech you give me leave to inform you that I am not used to write or tell lies, and that what I wrote to you is true to a tittle, to the utmost of my knowledge, and the best information I can have; & that my losses there are many hundred pounds more than I represented to you. And as to my gains by insurances in all my lifetime I never made nor was concerned in any assurances whatsoever of the value of so much as one shilling. And that neither directly, nor indirectly, by myself or any other, I never got so much as the value of one shilling by any insurance whatsoever. If this does not satisfy you, I will give you my oath of the truth of it, in any words whatsoever that you shall please to put it. And if you please to send for my brother, who lives in the city, & is also your tenant, to attend you, he will clear me from this aspersion, (for such I cannot but take it to be) and set me right in your thoughts as to that; or if any of you please to inquire of my kinsman, Mr. John West, Scrivener, at the Stocks Market, or my brother-in-law, Mr. Peter Joye, Merchant of your city, they will satisfy you I have not been concerned in anything of that nature, they being parties to most of my concerns that have occurred in your city for many years past: my brother I heard made some insurances, but what I know not, nor was I ever concerned with him in it the value of a halfpenny. Mr. Redmayne also says, you were pleased to order him to write, that what loss had happened, was upon the improvement that was upon their land, and not on the land itself. And that your rent was in the nature of ground rent, and therefore ought to be paid without any manner of delay. You may call it what you please, but sure I am, it is a land rent, an Irish rent, and a great rent as affairs have happened there; and I beg leave to inform you what rent it hath been, and what hath been the fate of that estate ever since it was first granted to the company, and my uncle and I have been your tenant. In the year 1615, King James the 1st granted the Irish lands to your city. In the year 1617 your company had their proportion settled upon them. From that time to the year 1627, you kept the lands in your own

hands, and managed them by three succeeding agents, who let them to some for thirty, to others for forty years, for £122 in the whole, as by a rent roll I have; out of which the agent's salary, and other public charges being paid or never received, as I was more than thirty years since credibly informed, and believe you may find by your book £80 paid in the year 1627. The company for £400 fine, and the present rent granted the lease to my late uncle, who held it but to the year 1631, when an information was exhibited by the then Attorney-General on the behalf of King Charles the 1st in the then court of star chamber against the city of London upon pretence of not performing agreements and covenants concerning their Irish lands. And that coming to hearing suddenly after, the court of star chamber fined the city £70,000 and ordered all their lands in Ireland to be seized into the King's hands, which was immediately accordingly done by commissioners sent over by the King, and your & all the city and other companies' tenants turned out of possession. The city of London finding the court against them, and to get clear of that monstrous fine of £70,000 compounded with the King, and gave back all their land in Ireland to the King, and accordingly their patents were made void in the Court of Chancery, and the King had the possession and profit of all their lands until in the year 1640 a parliament was called in England, whereupon the companies' tenants in Ireland came over and petitioned against the proceedings of the court of star chamber. The parliament referred it to a grand committee, of whom my late uncle, and your then tenant's brother was. After more than six months' attendance and examination the parliament, upon report of the committee, in May, 1641, came to twenty-two resolutions, all of which I have, but are too long now to trouble you with. The 18th of which is in these words:—Resolved, that upon the whole matter the sentence in the star chamber was arbitrary, unlawful, and unjust. And the 22nd resolve is, That the opinion of this house is, that they think fit that both the citizens of London, and those of the new plantation in Ulster, and all undertenants, and all those put out of possession, shall be restored to the same state they were in before the sentence in the star chamber. And accordingly the parliament addressed the King to re-grant the lands to the city, for it was in the King's hands by the surrender of their charter. The King declared he would restore them, and ordered a patent to be made accordingly; but while the companies' tenants were attending to get it done, and before it could be done—In October, 1641, broke out the great rebellion in Ireland. Within a few days all the houses whatsoever in the county of Londonderry, excepting the city of Derry, and town of Coleraine and one poor tenant's house that stood in the woods, and so of all the province of Ulster, excepting the great towns of strength, were burnt, and the protestants that could not make their escape to some place of strength were murdered, and all the stock they had both of live and dead goods taken away; and from that time to the year 1656, there was not so much as one single inhabitant upon your land, nor upon any other of the companies' lands that ever I heard of. In the year 1656, all the lands being in the Crown, and Cromwell

having the government, he upon application, granted a charter to the city of all their lands again; and then my uncle, your then tenant, went over and suddenly after died there, when the lease came to me. And in the year 1657, I went over and got a few straggling people to come upon your land, but all I could get out of it for four years, until the year 1660, was but £134 above the public taxes laid upon it.

“The company then claimed four years’ rent, from 1656 to 1660, and were pleased to accept of £160 for it, which was more by £26 than ever I made of it. In the year 1660, King Charles the 2nd returned, and your lands were again in the King’s hands, Cromwell’s patents being void; and in the year 1662, King Charles the 2nd, upon application from the City, and in pursuance of his father’s promise and declaration, by patent again granted your lands to the city. In the year 1668, the City, or the Irish Society, granted your proportion to you, for until then, you nor I had no title to it; and from that time, for many years, your full rent, and the public taxes could not be made out of it, but it is true what could not be got, the company was pleased to abate, as by your books, if you please to let them be perused, will appear; but until the year 1677, I got little out of it above what you had and the taxes; and what I did, I laid out, with many considerable sums I carried from England, to rebuild the tenants’ houses that were burnt in the rebellion. It is true, by the year 1677, I had got it planted and it turned out to advantage, but being in taxes it was settled low: and that we should have no more troubles there, I laid out the most of it in rebuilding the two chief houses, and making them strong for a defence for the protestants of that county to fly into in case of a sudden massacre, as the great rebellion was, which houses are now again burnt. But so soon as the late King came to the Crown, he put the government and arms in Ireland into popish hands, and thereby put the protestants in fear, so that trade and rents began to cease, and the people that had any thing considerable to remove out of that kingdom, and so it continued until the happy revolution. But when the late King James was in Ireland, and summoned his parliament, as he called them there, that parliament, by public act which I have, made void your charter, and granted all your lands to King James, not so much as saving the rights of one single person. And at the same time happened that fatal seige at Derry, into which almost all the people of that country, that had either purse or strength, and were not fled into England or Scotland, went and were besieged sixteen weeks, and wherein many thousands died, of which I had above sixty whose hands I now dearly want; and when that siege was raised, the Irish, out of malice, burnt almost all the whole country, some few houses excepted, and drove and carried away all their cattle and goods, and left only a few poor naked people and ready to perish for want. And sure I am, were you truly sensible of the miseries that kingdom has suffered, and wherein the county of Londonderry by that siege, and therein the loss of the people and by fire and robbery of their houses and goods have lost more than any county in Ireland, you would rather think them objects fit to be relieved than take anything from them for what is past. I have the

inheritance of some lands in that kingdom, besides what I hold from you, and do take it as a blessing that I have hopes of getting something out of it for the future, without expecting anything for what is past; and I do believe most of the landlords of that kingdom will or must do so. But all at present I intreat of you is, that you will give me time to see what I can get out of what is past, for I neither expect or desire to get a shilling for myself, and then I will wait upon you and lay the whole before you. It was not in your nor my power to hinder what hath happened; war, fire, and the sword hath done it, and I am a very great loser by it, never to be repaired—never will that kingdom, in twenty years of peace, be put into the condition they were before these calamities happened; besides the vast losses to the owners. In the mean time, I have writ you the truth of what hath befallen, and beg your pardon that I have been so tedious, but in less, I could not lay before you the misfortunes that have attended our unhappiness there. I only further intreat that you would please to do to me as you would be done by, were you in my condition, and that you will give me leave to subscribe myself

“Your’s, &c.,

“GABRIELL WHISTLER.”

The comparative importance of the nephew’s position, as illustrated by the letter here quoted, has caused us to anticipate the mention of the remaining uncle—Rev. Hugh Whistler, Rector of Facomb, in the County of Southampton, a charge which he served for some 30 years, until 1st May, 1680, when he was supplanted by one John Tabor. Against this usurper the nephew Gabriel brought an action¹¹ to recover possession. He does not appear to have regained the Rectory, for we learn “that Hugh’s expulsion was a great cause of the shortening of his life.” A tombstone formerly standing in Facomb Churchyard had this inscription:—

Here lyeth the body of Hugh Whistler Rector of Facomb who departed this life in the Year of our Lord 1662, aged 62.

He was Lord of the Manor of Ham, in Wiltshire, the account of his acquisition of which may be found in a long document, Claus. 1651, part 35. He was twice married; by his first wife he had no issue, but his second produced nine children, and it is noteworthy that of this large family several members acquired positions in life not often attained by the descendants of a simple

¹¹ Easter & Trin., 1661; Bridges, 1 B. & A., No. 36, “Whistler v. Tabor.”

country parson. It is with one of them that the connection of the Whistlers with Sussex begins, in the person of Henry Whistler, of Epsom and Bengeo, through the marriage of whose granddaughter with the first Baronet of the Webster family the greater part of their Sussex possessions were acquired.

Our record will now be confined mainly to this branch, although mention will be made in the sequel of some of the most notable members of the collateral connections.

From John Whistler, Vicar of Clapham, the second son¹² of the Rector of Facomb, near Worthing, the seat of the Shelleys, and their burial place, is descended in the direct line numerous members of the family, who have now for some time settled in Sussex. His grandson, John Whistler, of Newbury and of Tangley, ended his days at Bexhill, in near neighbourhood to his kinsmen at Battle Abbey, with whom he appears to have been in constant communication. His son again, the Rev. Webster Whistler, spent his boyhood with his guardian, Jane, the wife of Sir Whistler Webster, at the Abbey, proceeding thence to St. John's College, Cambridge, and succeeding in due course to the Rectory of Hastings, at that time in the gift of the family.

Of Henry Whistler, of Epsom, we have many particulars, to which we shall refer, gathered from "Thorpe's Catalogue of Battle Abbey Records" and elsewhere; only mentioning first that a daughter, the only child of Raphael, the fourth son of Hugh, of Facomb, married Valentine Blake, and became the ancestress of the talented family of Westmacott; that Eleanor, another daughter, married first, Rawlinson, of Combe, and second, Peter Joye, a merchant of eminence of that date, while her sister Joane, by her marriage with Dr. Ayscough, Dean of Bristol, was grandmother to Sir James Cockburn, of Langton, from whom descended the many worthies of that distinguished race. Henry Whistler, bap. 1634, and who lived to be 85 years of age, appears to have been a London merchant, and in that capacity to have amassed very large possessions. He

¹² The eldest boy died young.

may have been connected with the Salters' Company, for in recent years there was a court leading from Cannon Street, London, to Salters' Hall bearing his name.¹³ In the Webster family papers¹⁴ there are very many particulars given, which prove his property to have been extensive and various:—

In York he leased the Water Tower, on the Ouse, to his brother Gabriell for 42 years, he held leases of houses and land near the Tower of London from the sisters of St. Katherine's Hospital; in the same locality he leases "a piece of ground and a wharf with the brick messuage, near the Iron Gate, near the Tower of London." In 1713, June 27th, he grants a lease for seven years of the "Messuage with Yard, Summer House, &c.; abutting on the S. upon the Street or Yard called Castle Yard and upon Staple Inn on the W. in the Parish of S. Andrew Holborn." These and many other properties appear to have vested eventually in the Websters. Among other interesting papers we select one which recites "numerous drafts of assignments & Deeds of Sale of the Houses and other possessions of Henry Whistler grandfather of Lady Jane Webster the produce of which 30548£ purchased the Manor & lands of Robertsbridge"¹⁵ and another:—"Decree by the Lords Com^{rs} in the cause between Sir Whistler Webster Bart. Plaintiff and Godfrey Webster and others, respecting the Will of Lady Jane Webster—dec^d," p. 42, folio not given.

The decree contains many particulars respecting the Webster family. The children of Sir Thomas were all portioned by Sir Godfrey their grandfather; and the daughters received little or no fortune from Sir Thomas on their marriage; yet on the death of Lady Webster they were left only £500 each; and Sir Whistler's share of Henry Whistler's property was £68,000. This excited complaint among the others, the children of Sir

¹³ "Assignment by Sir Thos. Webster Whistler Webster &c of the Leases of eight Houses, called Whistler's Court in considⁿ of 760, 10. 0 to Edwd. Archer. Dec 21 1734."

¹⁴ Published by Thomas Thorpe, 1835.

¹⁵ Thorpe, page 197.

Thomas; and the power of Lady Webster to dispose so inequitably the property derived from her grandfather was questioned. Her will, however, by this judgment was held valid¹⁶.

The will of Henry Whistler, Esq., was dated 1719. He leaves "Executors Peter & James Joye his Nephews leaves them a debt due to him from Thos. Byde Esqre of Ware Park of 2500£; 1000£ stock to his granddaughter Eliz. Byde; also a farm at Ware in case of her death before being married, and not married to Whistler Webster—40£ per annum to Mrs. Black his housekeeper—to his niece (*sic*) Lady Jane Whistler, the whole personal and freehold including houses held under the Salters Co. in Whistler's Court, &c. 1£ each to 20 poor women at Epsom." He died in 1719; was buried at Waltham, and his body was afterwards removed to the vault of the Webster family in Battle church, where it now reposes.

There are some now living who remember the Rev. Webster Whistler, who was born in 1747, and died at Hastings in 1832, having been Rector of Newtimber, near Brighton, for 58 years, and of Hastings for 31. There is an interesting letter from Battle upon his graduating at Cambridge, which recalls the habits of people living in former days, and may repay perusal. It runs:—

DEAR WEB.

With great satisfaction I had the account of your having taken your Degree of Bachellor, and was informed by Mr. Chevalier it was with some degree of credit. My intention is that you should no longer continue in College, than is necessary for preparing for your journey to Battle Abbey, where with application on your part and the advice of friends you may pursue studies proper to qualify you for your intended profession. I would therefore have you send me an account of what is wanting in point of money to enable you to leave the University with that credit I would wish you to preserve in every part of life, and if I find it not extravagant it shall be remitted to you.

When this is settled, I will send horses to meet you at Tunbridge at the time you will appoint. I sent to Mr. Chevallier last week a

¹⁶ Thorpe, page 199.

dr^t for payment of your quarter bill ending 24th Dec., and by this post write to that gentleman in answer to his of this last.

Lady Webster sends you her compliments and congratulations.

Dear Web, your affect^e Friend,

W. WEBSTER.

Battle Abbey, 24 Jan., 1769.

At that time the journey from Battle to Cambridge was performed on horseback, and in his first journey to the University Mr. Whistler was accompanied by Isaac Ingall, afterwards of note for his extreme longevity. An original picture of this individual, drawn from life by order of Sir Godfrey Webster, is now in the possession of the Vicar of Ashburnham, with an inscription stating that he was then aged 109. From other data it is pretty certain that he lived to be 117. The tradition is, and the parish register of Battle may appear to confirm it, that he was buried in Battle churchyard at the east end of the church, aged 120. A writer in the "Hastings and St. Leonards Observer"¹⁷ has recently given a full account of many passages in the life of the Rev. Webster Whistler, under the heading "A Hastings Rector 70 years ago." The memoirs were read with considerable interest at the time, for they contained many references to contemporary events, and marked the progress of Hastings from a fishing town to the extensive watering-place which it has since become. The extracts we give may be worth preserving:—

Mr. Whistler, born at Stow Wood, near Oxford, in 1747, was of an old Oxfordshire family of good position, who were for many successive generations Lords of the Manor of Whitchurch, where Henry Whistler, Fellow of Trinity in 1605, was for fifty-six years rector. Many members of the family graduated at Oxford, including Dr. Daniel Whistler, Fellow of Merton, who, in 1647, was President of the College of Physicians. This able person, styled by Pepys the most learned and facetious man of his day, was followed by a regular succession of descendants, until Anthony Whistler, of Pembroke, closed the series in 1744. Our Rector, had he regarded the traditions of his race, should have graduated at Oxford also. He was sent, however, to St. John's, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1770, "not without credit," as writes Sir Whistler Webster in arranging his return journey to Battle Abbey, whence he had gone to pursue his studies at the University. In due course he was ordained, and shortly afterwards presented to the Rectory of Newtimber

¹⁷ R. F. W.

(1774), which preferment he held for the long period of nearly fifty-eight years. In 1776 he was appointed chaplain to Nathaniel, Earl of Harrowby. At that time the influence of the Webster family (with which Mr. Whistler was intimately connected by the marriage of the first baronet with an heiress of his house) was very considerable in East Sussex, and he received the promise of his kinsman that he should succeed to the family living which should first fall vacant, whether Ewhurst, Battle, Bodiam, or Hastings. Accordingly, on the cession of the Rev. Wm. Coppard, in 1803, Mr. Whistler was appointed Rector of Hastings, taking, as a necessary preliminary to the holding of two benefices together, his Master of Arts degree. There are many traditional anecdotes in connection with this clergyman of the old school which may serve to indicate the manners of the day as well as the characteristics of the man.

“30th December, 1827 (aged 80).—I continue (thank God for it) my duties at both churches without intermission, and, as usual, without any fatigue. On Christmas Day we had about 300 communicants, but I had Dr. Wellesley (brother of the Duke of Wellington), Dr. Goodenough (Archdeacon of Carlisle), and Mr. Stonestreet to assist, and the duty passed off pleasantly and respectably—as it has done to-day at the upper church, with the Archdeacon’s help. . . . I buried Mrs. Shorter about a fortnight ago. The body-snatchers came down from London in hope of a prey, but an intimation was given of their intention, and the grave has been watched nightly ever since by respectable neighbours all through the night, two by two, by turns. We had an old sexton here from London, who built a house on the East Hill (supposed by perquisites in this way), but about two months ago he and his wife died suddenly, within a week of each other. They had ordered *their* grave to be well secured (so it was when I buried them), but nobody watched for *them*.”

“January 8th, 1828. There has been, within these few days past, a terrible affray between the Preventive sailors and the smugglers, near Bexhill; several on both sides killed. The smugglers mostly came from Kent, but had no firearms. It was just by Sidley Green; only four tubs were seized, as we hear.”

“21st May, 1831. Incendiaries are at mischief. A barn was burned down at Bexhill yesterday, another at Brede, one in this neighbourhood the day before; in short, the law, or the execution of it upon *notorious* and *convicted criminals*, has been too lenient in making examples.”

Mention has been made of smugglers and their lawless doings. Here is an instance of the manner in which they showed their gratitude to those whom they supposed to have connived at their illegal ventures:—Voices and an unusual noise were one night heard under the Rector’s window. Carefully approaching the casement, and stealthily opening it, there, immediately below, he saw two men bearing, as he thought, something away. Before, however, he could greet the intruders with a charge of shot, a subdued voice reached his ear—“Hush! your reverence; it’s the brandy!” That was

intended as a thankoffering for the surreptitious use of the church tower, where, on a previous night, a run cargo of spirits had for the time been stowed away. There was never any sequel to this true story. The late Mr. St. Quintin used to tell how a similar circumstance happened to him while in charge of the Old Church at Pevensy, where, it may be remembered, the chancel was for years entirely shut off from the nave, and converted into a store-room for chests, brooms, and other etceteras not ecclesiastical in character. Into this convenient receptacle a band of smugglers had run a large quantity of contraband goods, and there, it appears, they had remained for many days undisturbed and almost out of the reach of detection. Mr. St. Quintin was never able to find out to whom he could return the keg of spirits which was afterwards left at his door with a letter of thanks for the accommodation his church had afforded. It would astonish a Hastings congregation of the present day to find their number gradually diminishing during the time of divine service, until, at last, minister and officials were left alone to marvel at the unwonted occurrence. Such an event, nevertheless, took place some half-century or more ago. The Lower Church was, as usual, well filled, when suddenly the devotions of the worshippers were disturbed by the report of a gun on the fort, followed immediately by a second, and then by continuous discharges. The commander of the coastguard, who was present, summoning those of his men who were among the congregation, was the first to quit the church. Others followed by twos and threes, then in large numbers, until the sacred building was altogether deserted—for rector and clerk were fain to join the throng who had hastened to the beach, longing to ascertain the cause of this unusual and startling interruption. It was not far to seek. A French privateer had audaciously approached the town and cut out a trading vessel which was lying there unprotected, and both privateer and prize were now to be seen sailing away, gradually diminishing in apparent size in the far distance. Without hesitation or delay the fishermen and others manned a vessel which was happily available, and eagerly started in chase of captor and captive. On the following day a more gratifying spectacle gladdened the eyes of the townsmen, for they saw three ships returning. At the stern of the venturesome volunteers were the Frenchman and her prey, which had succumbed to these hardy beachmen.

The following circumstance will serve to show the extreme care that should be taken in order that any disturbance of the bodies of those who have died of small-pox may be carefully avoided. Many years after the above date (?) (we were told fifteen), and during the absence of the sexton, there was occasion for the immediate burial of a stranger in All Saints' churchyard. An apparently vacant spot was soon found by the sexton's substitute, who, on disturbing the soil, found that the ground had been previously used, and that several bodies had already been interred there. These were the remains of those who had died of small-pox at the time mentioned. But a few

days passed before symptoms of the infection developed themselves in this unfortunate grave-digger, who sickened and died a victim to this most malignant disease.

It was the custom of Mr. Whistler to reside, as a rule, at Hastings, but to spend some part of each year at his other living, Newtimber, where he kept the Rectory House in his own hands, and farmed his own glebe. He also visited Newtimber at intervals, whenever opportunity offered. His journeys were sometimes made by sea to Brighton, near his destination; but he commonly rode over the Downs, making his way there in the course of a long day. As he rode leisurely along on one of these occasions, just as he was entering upon the most retired and solitary part of his journey, he was joined by a powerful, well-mounted companion, from whom he found it extremely difficult to part company. The stranger kept at his side with most accommodating pace—trot, canter, or gallop, it was all the same; there was no shaking off this undesired associate. All at once the Rector conceived the notion that the stranger coveted more than his companionship. He was a man of action, and at once reasoned with himself that he who struck the first blow would have the advantage, “so I knocked him off his horse,” he said, “and galloped on.” It seems that he was not altogether satisfied with his own summary proceeding, and that he returned very shortly to the place which had been the scene of his adventure. He saw no more of his quondam parasite, and the conclusion he arrived at was probably a correct one, viz., that he would have heard somewhat more of the matter had his companion been a man of harmless intention. Those were days when highway robberies with violence were frequent, and modes of self-defence were necessary which it may startle us to hear of now.

“It is my intention (if it please God I am as well as I am now) to go to London to see my living (Newtimber) sold, and to be there at the end of the antecedent week.” Thus he wrote in 1817. He took the journey as he had intended, was present at the sale, and considerably astonished the intending purchasers. But it will be necessary to go back a little to give full meaning to the story. Our Rector was, by nature and habit, a lover of field sports, and although in his earlier days he was free to carry his gun over the manor, when the estate passed into other hands than those of his patron his rambles in quest of game were not so amiably regarded. Servants, as a rule, take their tone from their masters, and the gamekeeper in this case was true to the instincts of his order. The omission of customary civilities—offensive because intentional—soon took the form of more open and insolent affront, until, on one unlucky day, the keeper, disputing the passage through a gate with the parson, soon found himself the worse man, and was deposited by this officer of the Church militant in an adjoining pond. A legal process ensued, and the divine was duly fined for an assault. Time rolled on, and at length the day arrived in which he was able to retaliate in the following amusing and effectual manner. Even in those days country

squires treated their church patronage as if it were their private property, existing for their own personal aggrandisement; and he of Newtimber caused it to be duly notified that, on a certain day, the highest bidder might become the patron of this particular cure of souls. Among the company assembled at the time and place of sale, our Rector—now about seventy, but still hale and vigorous—took up his position. The seller expatiated upon the beauty of the locality, and the desirability in various ways of the benefice, and summed up the catalogue by what he no doubt considered the climax of its attractiveness, viz., that the present holder of the living was a poor, tottering old man, of whom he might indeed use the common but expressive phrase that he had already “one foot in the grave.” At that moment all eyes were attracted by a movement in the assemblage making a passage, for a tall, stalwart figure of a man in clerical garb, who mounted first upon a chair, then upon the table, exclaiming in loud, clear tones, “Now, gentlemen, do I look like a man tottering on the brink of the grave? My left leg gives me no sign of weakness, and as to the other, Mr. Auctioneer, if you repeat your remarks, you will find it very much at your service.” We need hardly add that the Rector remained master of the situation. Some two or three years before the end came, he made this singular preparation for the closing scene. In his garden there grew a large yew tree, under whose friendly shade he had passed many a pleasant hour. At length this favourite tree shared the common fate of trees, and fell to the fatal axe of the destroyer, but the man, who was ever a staunch friend, would not lightly part company even with this familiar object. How should he preserve it? Time had passed pleasantly beneath it. Why should he not utilize the trunk by making of it a coffin as his final receptacle? The thought was carried out. A coffin was made out of the tree, and that it might not be altogether useless until required for its special purpose, it was placed at the foot of his bed as a chest for clothes and a daily *memento mori*. “Too short for you,” said a visitor, who noticed this strange wardrobe. “Indeed,” he replied; “then, when I have no further use for it, why not cut off my head and deposit it between my legs?” But let it not be supposed that this genial man was ever unmindful of his sacred office or of his own personal responsibilities. On the contrary, an undercurrent of deep, heartfelt piety pervaded his life, and there are yet those who can recall the solemnity of his ministrations and his deep reverence for the house of God. He was no respecter of persons. “Take off your hat, sir!” said a stentorian voice to a thoughtless person who was not uncovered in St. Clement’s Church. “I shall never forget the effect it had upon me, emphasised as it was by the earnestness of the venerable speaker,” said the gentleman who afterwards mentioned the incident. When the appointed time came that “the silver cord should be loosed,” and this strong man laid low, there was but a short space between the fatal seizure and the end. Until within a very few days of his death his duties were unremittingly performed. To one who expressed a hope that all was well with him in the short illness which preceded the final change, he said, with

much feeling, "Pray do not think that while I have for so many years been engaged in preparing others for Heaven I have neglected to prepare myself." He died March 2nd, 1831, and was buried in a vault within the grand old tower of All Saints'—his favourite church—where a plain tablet marks his resting-place.¹⁸

From his time to the present the family has had continuous representatives in Sussex. Many are still living, and of them it will be sufficient to say that one was Rector of Hollington when the old church in the wood was restored, and the church of St. John the Evangelist founded and nearly completed; that he has since become Vicar of Ashburnham and Rector of Penhurst. The rising generation is also resident in the locality, the Rev. Charles Watts Whistler having lately undertaken the charge of the Fisherman's Church in the parish of All Saints, Hastings, where of old his great-grandfather laboured. Neither is the connection likely to die out, for by a marriage with the daughter of the late James Watts, of Battle, they can claim kin with many descendants of Sussex worthies.

To complete the catalogue, already prolonged, it will suffice to mention certain notable individuals of the collateral branches, either as of personal interest or importance, or supplying by visitation records, Chancery proceedings, or wills, certain connecting links in the family chain. Here is a simple notice of the closing scene of William Whistler, of Stapenhill, who died 5th Jan., 1591:—¹⁹

The said William deceased, the same night in which he dyed caused the foresaid Margaret his wief to be called upp^m to him, and when she came to his bed syde he said to her as followeth: "Megge I see now I must needs depart from thee: I owe to John Whistler 12 pounds besides his yeares service which is ffortye shillings more & that makyth 16 pounds; good Megge lett y^t be paid & for all the rest I have, all came by thee & I doe give it all to thee, doe therewith what thou list.

From many inquisitions extant, we take the subjoined:—

¹⁸ Two handsome windows, by Lavers and Barraud, have lately been placed in All Saints' Church, Hastings, as memorials of him.

¹⁹ Kidd, folio 83.

Inquisitiones post mortem 19 Eliz. p. 2 No. 63. Edward Whistler deceased.

Oxon. Inquisition at Henley on Thames 19 Eliz. (1577). Ralph Whistler father of Edward dec^d was seized of the Manor of Gatehampton in the Co. of Oxford in his demesne as of fee, & by his Deed indented dated 1 Novr 4 & 5 Philip & Mary he by the name of Ralph Whistler of Fowscott Berks . . . in consideration of a marriage before the Purification next after the date of the same Deed to be solemnized between the said Edward Whistler the second begotten son of the said Ralph & Maryon Smythe of Langley eldest daughter of Gregory with the licence of the late King & Queen dated 24 Octr in the same years—granted to Edward Yonge & John Styles the said Manor to hold one moiety thereof to the use of the said Edward & Mariona and their joint heirs male. . . . Ralph died in Edward's life time at Fowescourt Berks long before this inquisition. Edward died at Gatehampton 23 July last (1577) and Mariona survived him. . . . The said Manor is held of the Queen in chief by the fifth part of one knight's fee, and is worth yearly ten pounds 7s. 3d.

A curious provision in the will of the aforesaid Mariona (proved 11th Feb., 1590) relates to the fittings of the Manor House at Gatehampton, and is unusual:—

I give and bequeath unto my eldest son John Whistler whom I doe make and ordain my executor . . . and if my said sonne John Whistler will not undertake to be my Executor, then I give & bequeath to him five pounds in money and all the Wainscote²⁰ and Benches in the Hall and the glasse in the windowes, parlor, and about the House & chambers.

From the eldest son of this Mariona descended John Whistler, of Whitechurch, whose representatives held that manor and property for several generations; they are mentioned repeatedly in "Shenstone's Memoirs" and contemporary books, and for many years occupied a prominent position in that locality. They died out with Anthony Whistler, who married and left no issue, when the estates passed to Mr. Gardiner, the present possessor. Anthony Whistler was of Pembroke College, Oxford, and a cup bequeathed to the College by him is still to be seen there. John Whistler's will describes his possessions. It was proved in London 7th Jan., 1627:—

Ye 7 daie of Dec in y^e yeare of grace 1626 I John Whistler of Whitechurch in y^e Co. of Oxon. gent. . . . my body to be decently buried at y^e discrecon of my Executors . . . Imprimis

²⁰ See "S.A.C.," Vol. XXXIV., page 51.

I will that my eldest sonne Edward Whistler shall have my whole manor of Gatehampton . . . and three copyholds in my manor of Whitchurch . . . 'also the advowson and patronage of y^e Church of Whitchurch . . . unto William my third sonne the mills & the fishing of the river of Thames which is pte of my manor of Whitchurch & also Gt. Bendishe, Little Bendishe & Hamerlye . . . Raphe Whistler my second sonne all my manor of Whitchurch except what is before bequeathed—Mary Whistler my youngest daughter all y^e copyhold in Whitchurch now in y^e possession of Robt. Clerke . . . unto Edward Whistler my Brother that cottage called the Church House in Whitchurch, & the ground thereto belonging for the terme of his life. . . the poore of the Parish of Whitchurch fifty-two shillings yearly for ever . . .

Edward Whistler, of Gatehampton, in his will proved 6 Feb., 1662:—

Leaves to the Clerke of Goring Church, and five ringers at the time of his funerall each 2s. 6d. "And my desire and request is," he concludes, "that the Text which shall (God willing) be preached upon for my Funerall sermon may be the five or six and twentieth verse of y^e 73 Psalm, 'My flesh & my heart faileth but God is the strength of my heart & my portion for ever.'"

The will of John Whistler, gent., ²¹ proved 15 April, 1656, recites:—

I give my dr. Elizabeth Whistler one gilded salt, &c. . . my dr. Mary one gilded bowle & silver goblet &c. . . Item I give to Solomon Seaman my best grey suite and cloake & best drivinge hatt because he shall be ready to looke abute my studdye as occasion shall serve, in finding out monys, wrightings. . . . My will is that all the magistrates within the Corporation shall have scarves & gloves, & the twenty four that are my friends ribbons and gloves, and none other.

As an instance of the great use to the genealogist of those monumental inscriptions which are now so often ruthlessly disturbed by the bad taste of the "restoring" church architect, we quote one still to be found within the altar rails at Goring Church, where so many of her family are buried.²² It gives three generations of her progenitors, and verifies the pedigree which was on record before this tablet was discovered by the compiler.

²¹ Town Clerk of Wallingford.

²² An ancient brass to the memory of Master John Whistler, of Goring, was removed from the church and found in a cottage in Wallingford.

It is in memory of Elinor Whistler, of Chelsey, who was the third daughter of John of Goring; it is small, of oval form, and still in perfect preservation:—

Helinor Whistler
 filia tertia Johanni
 Whistler de Goaring
 filii primi Willii Whistler
 de Stapenhill filii tertii
 Radulphi Whistler
 de Fowlescote
 in Comitatu Berkonive
 de Dedit en perpetu
 pauper
 de Goaring et paupibus
 Civitatis Oxon.
 Supplusagium status
 Ætatis suæ vicesimo septimo
 annoque sepulta fuit
 23 die Jan. 1630 in
 eodum tumulo cum
 Margarita Sorore
 natu minima.

In her will ²³ she mentions many other relatives—among them, “my kinsman Mr. Henry Whistler parson of Little Wittersham,” to whom she gives “one piece of plate of the value of four pounds,” and “her kinsman Mr. John Whistler, of Graies Inn,” whom she makes her executor.

In the “*Athenæ Oxonienses*” and “*Ward’s Professors of Gresham College*” we have full accounts of Daniel Whistler, M.D., Fellow of Merton, President of the College of Physicians, London, 1683, and Professor of Mathematics at Gresham College. There is also occasional incidental mention of him in the Diaries both of Pepys and Evelyn. His portrait in the College of Physicians gives the idea of a man of great talent, but with a leaning to the indulgencies of those dissolute days. He was undoubtedly a man of mark; of abilities which reflected lustre upon his college, although it is said he was a poor steward of its revenues, inclining, probably, too readily to the habits of

²³ Proved Lon., 9 April, 1631.

his contemporaries. There is a long letter from him to Oliver Cromwell, dated Upsal, Feb. 18, 1653, in the Thurløe State Papers, II., 104.

His will, dated 10 May, 36 Car. II., A.D. 1684, is here given :—

I Daniel Whistler, D^r of Physick . . . Imprimis I give unto y^e Col: or comonalty of the ffaculty of Physick in London all y^e Wainscott, Chimney Pieces, Marbles, Tyles, floors, partitions, Staires & all other goods & furniture which are fixed to the house I now live in, & also all the backs & mangers Planks & Partitions which are in my Stable belonging to my said House. Item: I give unto the said Colledge the Kings model and S^r John Cutlers face which are in my Alcove Room, and likewise y^e Kings Head which is in my man's house, and Sir John Cutler's modell which is in my closett, and I do also give unto the said Colledge all my Books Manuscripts and rarieties and the shelves and drawers which are in my closett and it is my desire y^t the same be carefully kept & preserved . . . unto my loving niece Mary Henchlow and her heires for ever, all my houses lands tenements and hereditaments . . . lying and being at Walthamstow in the County of Essex. . . . Item I give unto my loving ffriend Sir John Cutler of Tuttlles Street Westminster Knight and Baronet, and Anthony Lowther of Maske in Cleveland in the County of York 50£ apiece . . . to them all the residue of estate not before disposed of to the uses and purposes following, that is to say $\frac{1}{3}$ part thereof to the Coll: of Physicians of which I am President, and the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ parts to Anthony Lowther Esq. John Lowther Esq. Mrs. Willoughby, Mrs. Morris, the Lady Holmes and Mrs. Hannah Lowther the sons and daughters of my late wife to be equally divided between them.

Exors: S^r John Cutler, and Anthony Lowther.

With these selections from our voluminous manuscripts this compilation must conclude.

Our notes have referred to different members of some ten generations of a long-lived race, and have traversed a period of at least 350 years. It is a creditable distinction that in this unbroken line, traceable without doubt or difficulty, there is to be found no single individual who reflects discredit upon his kindred, or whose name the compiler could desire to withdraw from his catalogue.

“Stemmata quid faciunt?” The answer is not far to seek. Of the present generation the pedigree shows four members serving their Queen and country in the honourable profession of arms, while other four are content to

labour for the common good in that holy calling, which is now striving to maintain its sacred status unimpaired in a season of uncommon perplexity.

These annals have grown upon the writer. Here and there a passage may interest a casual reader, but before his mind's eye a living array of the worthies of his own race has seemed to pass—for him they have an individual and distinct existence.

And, indeed, it is ordinarily so with any who enter upon the search for the particulars of those from whom they are descended. To quote the eloquent words of Bishop Horne :—

Curiosity naturally prompts us to enquire into the records of the Family or Society to which we belong. Every little incident that befell our ancestors is collected with care and remembered with pleasure. The relation it bears to us gives it consequence in our eyes, though in the eyes of others it may seem to have none. The mind, in its progress, finds attention excited, as the velocity of a falling body is increased; nor can it repose itself at ease upon any account which stops short of the original and first founder of the Community.²⁴

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²⁴ Sermon on the Creation of Man.