

XXIII.—*Several old Letters relating to the Nevills, one of them bearing the signature of Richard III, as Duke of Gloucester ; communicated by W. C. TREVELYAN, Esq., of Wallington.*

THE volume in which these letters are contained is chiefly in the handwriting of Robert Hegge, and in it (amongst other articles) is his “*Saint Cuthbert*,” with the date of 1625 affixed to it, but without the Epistle to the Reader, which in the printed copy is dated 1626; and his “*Lectiones Theologicae*,” the first of them dated April 4, 1627, which were printed in 1647.

W. C. T.

A coppie of some letters w^{ch} were found in Rabie-castle after t^e Rebellion, to shewe the fashion of those times.

To t^e ryghtt onerabayll and my vere good lord and master, my lord off Wyastmorland, yeve thys w^t sped.

Ryghtt oñarbill and my vere gud lord, my most umbyll dowte had in ramambrs, thys shal be to sarteffy yo^r gud Lordchep, that my Lord nevell, my Lade Catryn, my Lade mayre, w^t all other yo^r Lordcheps housoulld ys meyre. Thanks be to God, for thomas gasguyns byell ys borstyn and allmost holl. I have resavyd yo^r Lordcheps later, wherin I do parsave yo^r Lordcheps rateryn will nott be so soyn as I wolld wyche god ytt wyer: for thys shortt days and yll wyther henders the wyrkemayn sore, so thatt ytt gose nott so fast forwyard as I wolld wyshe ytt dyd; also, her ys bott ij q^{rs} off wyahtt wyntyng v pakes, and I knowe off no mor to be had, and for malltt, ther came in iiij q^{rs}, and that ys all brawd, wher to have ane more I knowe nott, and all the moyne I had will be gone yes wyke in housolld zcharges and other

neseserys: wherfor I beshe yo^r gud Lordchep I may know yo^r plesor, and I shall be gllad to acoumplys ytt to the otermost off my small pour, as my bounded dowte ys to do w^t the hallpe of god, whome have yo^r Lordchep in hes blysed kepyñg, and send yo^r Lordchep myclye oñere and soũne home frome yo^r Lordcheps maner off Kerkbemorsyd.—ix off november, be the yll hand off yo^r Lordcheps pour sarvntt and badmē,
OSWYNE OGLE.

To the right honorable Lord my Lord the Erle of Westmland.


My Lord, in my most laulyest mañ that I can I coñmaunde me unto yo^r Lordship, And accordyng unto yo^r Lordships coñmaundement for propayryng for such stuff as yo^r Lordship shuld occupy at yo^r lowge, At yo^r home coñyng nowe. As for wyne my Lord, their cane none be gotten sayvyng oon hogissheid, whiche was gotteyn at the Newcastill of reid wyne, which I trust yo^r Lordship will thynke wonderous deir: And also my Lord, as for wheat and mawte and other fresshe decatis, what appon yo^r awne and of other Provision, I trust ye shall be well servied, besuchyng yo^r Lordship that ye wold be content for to send over yo^r Clerke of your kechyng and your Coke for sleying of sũche mañ of beveiss and muttons as must be occupied at yo^r Lordships home coñyng. My Lord, as con^cnyng yo^r coñmaundement ayence Antony Brakynbury, ayence suche fermoldez as he hath of yo^r Lordship: As yo^r Lordshipps coñmandement was, at he shuld avoide theym, for yo^r Lordshipps mynd was that ye wold have theym in yo^r awne haunde: And as for aunsewer he wold send me none by my sv^ant, but he said that he wold send his with awne sv^ant betwxt that and sonday: Also, as tochyng the sekenes within yo^r Lordship sithen I was with yo^r Lordship; lowed be God their was no steir in the Lordship of Brauncepath: And if their is any other svⁱce that yo^r Lordship wold coñmaunde me withall, I besuch yo^r Lordship that I knaw yo^r ferther pleasure therein. writtyn at Brauncepãth, xxvijth Septembre, by yo^r fv^ant,
R. CLAXTON.

To my worshipfull uncle, Richard Booth, be thes delivered In hast.

Right worshipfull uncle, I hertly comãd me unto you, dissiryng you that ye and Ralf Claxton doo stoup all my sv^{nts} as shulde wait apone me to Caliss, and that they be not w^t me afor the xiith day of may, for divs considera^{ton}z, & thus fair ye well. frome Popler the xxvjth day of Aprill, and not to faill but to be w^t me the same day.

RAUFF WESTMORLAND.*

To my Lorde Nevyll in hast, &c. &c.

My Lorde Nevyll, I recoñmaunde me to yoe as hartely as I can, & as ever ye love me & yo^r awne weale & sewrty, & yhs Realme y^t ye come to me w^t y^t ye may make defensably arrayde in all the hast y^t ys possyble; and y^t ye wyll yef credence to  (Sir) Richarde Ratclyff, thys berrerr, whom I nowe do sende to you enstructed w^t all my mynde & entent: & my Lorde do me nowe gode fvyce as ye have have always befor don, & I trust nowe so to remembre you, as shalbe y^c making of you & yours: And God send you goode fortunes.—wrytten att London, the xjth day of June, w^t the hande of

yo^r hertely lovyng Cousyn & master,

R. GLOUCESTRE.†

* 1484.—Ralph Neville, second Earl of Westmoreland, died without surviving issue, and was succeeded by his nephew Ralph, son of his younger brother Sir John Neville; who married Margaret, (a) daughter of Sir Roger Booth, of Barton, in Lancashire.—*Heylyn's Help to English History*.

In a pedigree of the Nevilles in the same volume with these letters—which, with several others of North Country families, Hegge copied from a manuscript which he borrowed (as he says) from his Cosen, S. S. (aunderson, (b) added in a later hand), it is said, that Raphe Nevill, 3d Earl of Westmoreland, married Kathren the daughter of Roger Bouthe, of Cheshire, Esq. which appears to be incorrect.

† This letter is printed in *Fenn's Collection*, vol. v. p. 302, from a copy sent to him by the Rev. J. Brand, who remarked that it was “doubtless a transcript of an original letter of the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard the 3d, and written just before his seisure of the crown.”

“This letter was written at a busy period of Richard's life; his plans were now in forwardness for his seizing the crown, and his orders must have been sent (perhaps this very day) for the beheading of Rivers, Vaughan, and Gray, at Pontfract. Lord Neville appears to have done Richard former

(a) Neice of Laurence Booth, Bishop of Durham, 1457, 1456.—*Surtees', Durham*.

Samuel Sanderson, keeper of Brancepath Castle for King James I., ob. July, 1650.—*Surtees' Dur.* ii. 343.

services, and he seems to have great confidence from his assistance now, for which he makes most liberal promises."—*Fenn*, vol. v. p. 305.

The date of the letter is probably Wednesday, 11th June, 1483, 1. Edw. V. On the 13th the prisoners in Pontefract Castle were beheaded, orders to that effect having been sent by the protector to the governor Sir Richard Ratclyff, Knight, "a proper instrument in the hands of this tyrant," says Hume. Hollinshed says, that "the protector specially used his service in that councell, and in the execution of such lawless enterprises, as a man that had been long secret with him, having experience of the world, and a shrewd wit, short and rude in speech, rough and boisterous of behaviour, bold in mischief, as far from pitie as from all fear of God."—*Hollinshed*, p. 725.

"Ralph Neville, second Earl of Westmoreland, died without surviving issue, in 1484, and was succeeded by his nephew Ralph, son of his younger brother, Sir John Neville, who would not properly be called Lord Neville during his uncle's life, whose second title this was; yet it is probable that Richard might address him by this title as presumptive heir."—*Fenn*, vol. v. p. 304. Perhaps this letter may have been written to Ralph the second Earl.

"The Nevilles were cousins to Richard by his mother Cecily, Dutchess of York, who was daughter of Ralph Neville, the first Earl of Westmoreland."—*Fenn*.

A few slight errors in Brand's transcript may be observed by comparing this copy with that in *Fenn's Collection*.