

No. XIX.—*Memoir as to a Bridle-Bit belonging to William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle. Presented to the Society by ROBERT BIGSBY, F. R. S. and F. S. A., Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of Paris. In Letters to JOHN ADAMSON, Esq., M. R. S. L., Secretary to the Society.*

Repton, near Derby, May 15th, 1840.

SIR,

I beg leave to offer to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle upon Tyne, for deposit in their valuable Museum, a Bridle-Bit, formerly belonging to the celebrated William Cavendish, Duke and Marquess of Newcastle (upon Tyne), Generalissimo of the Royalist Forces, north of Trent, during the grand Rebellion. This interesting relic of a very distinguished character fell into my hands in 1832, having, in the preceding year, been separated from the equestrian statue of that Nobleman during the Reform Riots, when the whole of the interior of the Castle at Nottingham, together with the statue, which formed the chief ornament of its main front, was destroyed by fire.

Should the Society consider this addition to their collection desirable, on your acquainting me with the circumstance I shall with much pleasure transmit it, for the honour of their acceptance; and in the meantime I remain,

ROBT. BIGSBY, F. R. S. and F. S. A.,  
Hon. Mem. of the Statistical Soc., Paris, &c. &c.

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Repton, Burton on Trent, Staff.  
June 4, 1840.

SIR,

The Bridle-Bit which I have the honour to present to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle upon Tyne, for deposit in their interesting Museum, may perhaps be considered as a suitable addition to that collection, being

a memorial of the celebrated William Cavendish, Duke, Marquis, and Earl of *Newcastle*, Generalissimo of the Royalist Forces, north of Trent, during the grand Rebellion. It was recently attached to the equestrian statue of his Grace, which adorned the front of Nottingham Castle, and which, together with the interior of the edifice, fell a prey to incendiaries during the Reform Riots in 1831. I may take the liberty to observe, that this relic is rendered more interesting by the circumstance that it exhibits a specimen of the Bridle-Bit invented by the Duke (the peculiarity of its construction being comprised in the jointed bow in the centre of the *porte*); engravings of which, under the designation of the "Newcastle Bit," may be found in various treatises on Horsemanship, since that period; and it is generally, though erroneously, known at this day as the "Pelham Bit":—a mistake of very obvious occurrence, the family of Pelham having succeeded that of Cavendish in the Dukedom of Newcastle. I enclose a small print from the Treatise on Horsemanship by the Duke of Newcastle, which contains a representation of the Duke on horseback, using the same kind of Bit. The statue referred to was erected by his successor, Henry, on his completion of the castle; the erection of which was commenced by himself soon after the Restoration. The present castle was built upon the site of an ancient fortress supposed to have been erected by William the Conqueror, or rather by his natural son, William Peverel, which, for the most part, belonged to the crown from the beginning of the reign of Henry the second, and gave entertainment and residence to the monarchs of England. Great part of this castle was pulled down a little before the civil war; yet there was so much left of it, that King Charles the First choose to set up his standard there in 1642; but soon after it became a garrison for the Parliament, and so continued till the execution of that unfortunate monarch. After the Commonwealth was established, Captain Poulton, the last governor of Nottingham Castle, had orders given him to pull it down; but it was not entirely demolished at the Restoration. When that event had taken place, the Duke of Buckingham, grandson by the mother's side to Francis, Earl of Rutland, who had a grant from King James the First, both of the castle and park, sold it to the Duke of Newcastle, who pulled down what remained, and erected a stately fabric in the place of it. Of the present edifice I find the

following brief notice in the only book of reference immediately at hand, and as it alludes to the statue in question I shall transcribe it. "In our description of the town of Nottingham, we made some mention of the Castle, but as it is now one of the finest mansions in the kingdom, it will be proper in this description of the most remarkable seats in this county, to give some further particulars concerning it. The situation is on a lofty eminence, or rather precipice, to which there is only one passage, namely, from the town. On passing the lodge, we ascend by a noble flight of steps, on each side of which is a road for coaches, extending to the uppermost part of the precipice. The whole of this magnificent edifice is built of freestone, with a rustic front, adorned with pilasters of the Corinthian order; and in the centre is a noble statue of William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle. The whole precipice upon which this stately statue is erected is surrounded by a fine balustrade faced with stone." To these particulars may be added the following genealogical notice of the Duke and his immediate descendants: William Cavendish son of Sir Charles Cavendish, of Welbeck, Co. Notting., by Catherine, daughter and heir to Cuthbert Baron Ogle, afterwards heir of that house, and in 1628, 4 Car. I. declared Baroness Ogle. He was advanced to the degree of Baron Ogle and Visc. Mansfield in 1620; and on the 17th March, 1627, 3 Car. I. was created Baron Cavendish of Bolsover and Earl of Newcastle upon Tyne: he was also, Oct. 27, 1643, created Marquis of Newcastle. On the 16 March, 1664, 16 Car. II. he was created Earl of Ogle, and Duke of Newcastle, and died in Jan. 1676, leaving issue by Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir to William Basset of Blore, Co. Staff., Esq., Henry his successor, and three daughters, whereof Jane was married to Charles Cheney of Chesham-Boys, Co. Bucks. Elizabeth to John Egerton, Earl of Bridgewater. Frances to Oliver St. John, Esq., afterwards Earl of Bolingbroke. Henry, who in 1676 succeeded his father, married Frances eldest daughter to Wm. Pierrepont of Thorsby, Esq., 2nd son to Robert, Earl of Kingston, and by her had Henry, his only son, who was styled Earl of Ogle; and he marrying Elizabeth sole daughter and heir to Josceline Percy, Earl of Northumberland, thereupon assumed her name, and bore her arms, but died in his father's life time, 1680, without issue; and his father dying on the 26 July, 1691, without issue male, his honours be-

came extinct, and his five daughters became his co-heirs. I am not without an impression that this account may be considered as uninteresting, but it will occupy a few moments only in the perusal. With many thanks for your personal kind attention in this matter, and with every wish for the long-continued prosperity of your valuable Institution,

I remain, sir, your faithful humble servant,

ROBT. BIGSBY.