

## SIR EDWARD RADCLYFFE, OF DILSTON.

A MEMOIR of the second Sir Francis Radclyffe, of Dilston, was recently laid before the members of the Society by Mr. Longstaffe. They are now presented with a short biography of Sir Edward Radclyffe, his father. For the greater part of the documentary evidence which leavens the narrative, the Society is again indebted to the courtesy of its treasurer, John Fenwick, Esq., F.S.A.

Sir Edward Radclyffe, the second baronet of the house of Dilston, was the second son and the sixth child of Sir Francis Radclyffe, of Derwentwater. He was born on the 1st of June, 1589. His mother was Isabel, a daughter of Sir Ralph Grey, of Chillingham, the gallant head of one of the most illustrious of the Northumbrian families. This alliance brought the Radclyffes into a close connection with the gentry of Northumberland, and probably induced the main line of that house to migrate from its wild home in Cumberland to the grey towers of Dilston. Here, on the banks of the Devilswater, near the fortalice of their ancestress, they reared for themselves a stately mansion, in which they continued to abide. The Lord's Island, on the fair lake of Derwentwater, was given up to a younger branch, and, with it, soon fell into decay. The Church of Crosthwaite is still filled with the monuments of the family, but none of the Radclyffes of Dilston are interred with their forefathers within its walls.

Edward Radclyffe, the subject of this memoir, by the decease of his elder brother in his infancy, became heir-apparent to the estates and honours of his ancient house. Of his education and early life we are in complete ignorance. In those times it was generally the custom among the Roman Catholic gentry to bring up their families in the privacy of their own homes. Here there was frequently in residence some priest, himself, perchance, the portionless scion of some respectable family, who held the double office of chaplain to the household and tutor to the children of his patron. To his care the education of the younger mem-

bers of the family was consigned, and they grew up under his tutelage thoroughly imbued with the principles of their religion, and devotedly submissive to their parents, but entirely unacquainted with the manners and customs of the world around them. The younger son, indeed, who was destined to preach the religion which he professed, was usually sent to Douay, or to some other continental seminary, but his elder brother was rarely permitted to accompany him, and they often separated to see each other no more.

Sir Francis Radclyffe died in 1622, and was succeeded in his baronetcy and estates by Edward his eldest surviving son. Upon his father's decease, Sir Edward, in accordance with the heraldic etiquette of the day, ought to have notified that event to the College of Arms in London. This duty he had neglected to perform, and after the lapse of more than sixteen years he was reminded of his omission by an officer of the college.<sup>1</sup> In obedience to his summons, Sir Edward sends in the following certificate.

THE CERTIFICATE of Sir Edward Radclyffe, Baronet, son and heire of Sir Francis Radclyffe of Dilston in the County of Northumberland deceased, to the office of Armes neare Paules Chaine in London etc.

*Imprimis*: the said S<sup>r</sup> Francis Radclyffe was married to Isabell, daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Ralph Gray, of Chillingham, in Comitatu predicto, about the 18th yeare of the late Queene Elizabeth, etc.

2. He had issue by his said wife 6 sonns and 7 daughters,<sup>2</sup> vizt. Thomas, who died an infant; Edward (now livinge); Francis, who died young; John,<sup>3</sup> Francis, and Cuthbert. Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Katheran, Dorothy, Annan, Janie.

3. The paternal coate of the said S<sup>r</sup> Francis Radclyffe is a bend in-gralld Sabell, in a field Argent, etc.

<sup>1</sup> The summons of the officer runs as follows:—

“COM. NORTHUMBERLAND.—*Sir Edward Radclyffe*. You are to returne a certificate to the Office of Armes, neare Paule chaine, in London, of the death, marriage, issue, armes, and place of buriall of Sir Francis Radclyffe, Baronet, deceased, according to the order constituted in that behalfe, before the 3th day of February next, or a monition will be awarded against you in the Earle Marshalls Court. Dated the 14th day of January, Anno Domini 1638. JOHN NEWTON, Deputatus pro officio Armorum.”

<sup>2</sup> From some memoranda, preserved among the muniments at Greenwich Hospital, I am enabled to give the birthdays of these children. *Mary* was born 1 June, 1582; *Margaret*, 13 January, 1583-4; *Elizabeth*, 17 August, 1585; *Thomas*, 24 February, 1586-7; *Catharine*, 14 April, 1588; *Edward*, June 1, 1589; *Francis*, 8 September, 1590; *John*, 27 October, 1591; *Dorothy*, January 1, 1592-3; *Anne*, 12 August, 1594; *Jane*, 17 November, 1595; *Frances*, 10 March, 1599-1600; *Cuthbert*, 18 September, 1603.

<sup>3</sup> John Radcliffe, of Corbridge, gent., makes his will, November 9, 1669, desiring to be buried in Corbridge Church. To Isabell his wife, who is the residuary legatee and executrix, he leaves a life annuity of 18*l.* and the boat at Corbridge. After her death, all his lands and estate are to be divided between his three sons, John, Edward, and Francis.

4. He died the 23th day of December, Anno Domini 1622, etc.

5. He was buried at his parish church, called Corbridge Church, in the said County of Northumberland, etc.

His armes and issue will more at large appeare by his pedegree made Anno Domini 1618, under the proper hand of Sr Ri. St. George, Norroy, late Kinge of Armes.

EDWARD RADCLYFFE.

*Dilston, 16 January, 1638.*

Although Sir Edward complied with the demand of the officer, he seems to have been surprized at the request, and still more astonished at the succession fee which was required by the heralds. He, therefore, cautiously encloses his certificate in a letter to some friend or kinsman of his in London, begging him to make the necessary enquiries into the legality of the demand. I give his letter.

*Thomas*,—Yeasterday there came to my house one Edward Beale, gent., an Attorney in Yorke, who hath a deputacion under seale from one Mr Newton, deputy for the Office of Armes, as by this inclosed coppes which he served of mee yow may better understand. Hee demands not onely a Certificate from mee, which I send you here inclosed, but especially hee would have mee to give him a very large fee, dew upon the death of my father, as hee affirms, to the Harrolds, by vertue of an order made by the Lords of the Marshalls Courte in February xvth of kinge James, vizt. every Baronet twenty markes, every Knight 10*l*. etc. I am informed that he was att the Sessions at Morpeth amongst other gent: but I heare not of any that pays him, beeing a matter not herd of in this County formerly makes all of [us] unwilling to give him any thinge, because hee demands so much, wherefore I desyre you for my better satisfac'on that presently upon the receipt hereof you repaire to the said Office of Armes there; informe yourselfe as particularly as you can what fee I and others in this kinde must or ought to pay, for now I am onely required to make my certificate, which I send you inclosed, requiring you to deliver it into the said Office, which I doe for preventing any advantage that might be alledged against mee in sitting contempts of that Courte. I pray informe yourselfe as well as possibly you can what is to bee done herein, and speake with Sr Henry St. George, kt. now kinge of Armes for the North telling him that what shall appeare to bee dew and right I shal bee as willing as others of my quality. But the some demanded is too lardge. I have promised the said Mr Beale my answer to his demand before the next terme, so I desyre a satisfactory answer from yow at your coming home, and in the interim rest

Your loving frend,

*Dilston, 16 Jan., 1638.*

EDWARD RADCLYFFE.

Informe yourself of others as well as of the Harrolds what fees are paid in this kind.

Sir Edward's messenger seems to have carried this letter down with him to the College of Arms. He there obtained the opinion of Henry

St. George, Norroy,<sup>4</sup> in support of the claim made by the heralds. As St. George had been holding visitations in the North, Sir Edward was perhaps acquainted with him, and in deference to his high authority, the fee was probably paid without farther controversy.

When Sir Edward succeeded to the family estates there was no comfortable residence at Dilston to receive him. Part of the ancient mansion of his forefathers was being enlarged, and a new and a statelier edifice was rising near it. Several months before his father died he had entered into an agreement with a Yorkshire contractor,<sup>5</sup> and the house which that person had pledged himself to erect, was not completed at the death of Sir Francis Radclyffe. This contract is still preserved, and as some of my readers, perhaps, will be curious to know the manner, as well as the terms, on which our Jacobean mansions were erected, I place it before them, abridged only by the omission of purely legal technicalities. Documents of this kind do not frequently occur, and of the architecture of this period we, unfortunately, know too little.

*Articles of an Agreement Indented made, &c., the second day of January, in the nyntenth yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne lorde James, &c., 1621. Betwixt Edward Radclyffe, of Devilston, within the Countye of Northumberland, Esquire, of the one partie, and John Johnson, of Lytle Langton, of th' other partie.*

FIRST yt is covenanted. .that he the said John Johnson, his heires &c. shall before the feaste of St. Michaell the Archangell next ensuinge the dayt hearof, at his owne proper costes and chardges, well and suffyceyntlie erecte, make, and build. .at Devilston aforesaid a parte of the house wherin Sir Frauncis Radcliffe Barronet now dwelleth, of thre stories heighe, of good and suffycyent free stone and other stone of the best he can or may convenientlie gytt, within one myle next to the same house accordinge to the plottes therof maid, bearinge dayt of these presents and subscribed with the hand of the said John Johnson, in forme in effecte followinge, viz.—

In the first and lowest storry six stone doores, wherof two of them muste stand in the porch which is to be wrought with mouldinge and the rest playne; also two chimneys in the same storry for the kytchinge and fower wyndowes, with fower leightes in every wyndowe on the

<sup>4</sup> "Sir.—The fee demanded for takinge a Certificate after the death of your father Sir Francis Ratcliff, beinge a Baronett, is 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* of which we can make no abatement. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

HEN. ST. GEORGE, NORROY.

Every Gent., 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Esquire, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; Knight, 10*l.*; Baronett, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Baron, 25*l.*; Bishop, 25*l.*; Viscount, 30*l.*; Earle, 35*l.*; Marques, 40*l.*; Duke, 45*l.*; Archbishop, 45*l.*

<sup>5</sup> Some alterations had been made by Sir Edward's father, for on a stone gateway, to the south of the old castle, are the initials of the names of Sir Francis and his lady—F. R. I. R. 1616.

foresyde, and two wyndowes with two leightes in eyther wyndowe and two wyndowes with thre leightes for either wyndowe on the backsyde, with suffycient tables over every of the said wyndowes suffyciently and well wrought, and to be of three foote heighe of cleare leight, and fiftene inches in breadth; all the walles of the same storye to be perfectly walled according to the length and breadth of the same plott, and to conteyne in breadth three foote and about three yeardes in height to the first flower. Also one payre of stone stares to the height of the hall flower, And one payre of round stares to the lowe roome at the east end of the court; And to build and bringe upp the porch with hewen stone and fower pillers to the height of the first storie.

The second story the walles thereof to be two foote and a halfe in thicknes with the porch of hewen stone; And a windowe of nyne leightes transomd, and fower more with fower leightes wyndowes transomd, with tables over the same; Also fyve windowes of thre leightes transomd, and two of two leightes untransomed, three foote in height, all of these to be likewise tabled; alsoe thre hewen stone chimnes, two hewen stone doores in the same storye.

The wall of the thirde story to be two foote in thicknes to the full height of the wall of the ould house whereon yt must adjoyne with the hewen porch, and a windowe of nyne leightes untransomed and thre fote of cleare leight; Also fower more of fower leightes untransomd on the same height and on the foresyde, and fyve thre leight wyndowes on the backsyde, and of the same height with all their tables, thre chimnes of hewen stone in the same storye; Alsoe a batlement of stone called vent and creaste over the porch and turrett of the same story, together with suffycient fynnells for the corners of the same house.

And that all the walls of the same house be well wrought with lyme well tempered with sand, and all thinges necessary for the same.

In consideracion wherof the said Edward Radcliffe doth . . covenante . . that he the said Edward Radcliffe . . shall at th'end of every moneth next after the begynnyng of the said recyted worke by the said John Johnson as aforesaid untill the said feaste of St. Michael th'arkangell next, well and trewlie content and pay . . unto the said John Johnson . . twentie pounds . . or more or lesse, at the seight of indeferent persons, ratably, as the said John Johnson . . shall have deserved the same in forwardnes in performinge of his said bargaine . . untill the sume of two hundred and fyve pounds be paid. And yf any parte of the said sume of two hundred and fyve pounds shalbe behinde and unpaid at the said feast of St. Michael th'arkangell next, then the said Edward or his assignes shall well and trewlie pay . . the remainder . . at the finishinge and final endinge of all the covenantes before specyfyed on the partie of the said John Johnson to be performed. And likewise graunteth hearby full licence and authoritye for the said John Johnson . . to digg, sincke, and wynn quarries of stone, and to hewe and dresse the same upon or in any parte or parcell of his parke at Devilstone . . And . . to lead and carry the same the most conveniente waye and waies . . for the finishing and buildinge of the said newe house. And that the said Edward Radcliffe . . shall bringe unto the said newe worke . . suffycient tymber and

fleakes<sup>6</sup> for scaffoldinge in and about the said workes, and cause such suffycyent number and quantitie of coles to be carried and conveyed unto such kills as the said John Johnson or his assignes shall build for burninge of lyme to erecte the said new house as the said John Johnson shall buy and pay for at Whittingstall pittes and mynes. And shall find and allowe unto him the said John suffycyent wood for him the said John Johnson to burne in and about the said lyme kylls. at all tymes duringe the continuance of the buildinge of the said newe house.

In witnesse wherof the parties first above named to these presents have put ther handes and seales interchaunably the day and yeare above written.—JOHN JOHNSON (*L.S.*)—Sealed signed and delivered in the presence of these, FRANCIS RADCLYFFE, JOHN RADCLIFFE, THO. WAISIEY, WILL'M HUDSPETH, JAMES YARD, GEORGE AYDON.

[*In dorso.*]—*Memorandum*, That Mr. Edward Radclyffe within named ys to find and wynn all the walling stones to be used in and about the buildinge of the new house, and I John Johnson within named am to lead the same.—JOHN JOHNSON.

*Memorandum.*—Paid to the within named John Johnson, in parte of the summe of 205*l.* within written, just 144*l.* this 24th day of Julye, anno Domini 1622. E. R.—Moore paide to the abovenamed John Johnson this 5 of October 1622, 4*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in full payment of 205*l.* E. R.

In this mansion its builder lived and died. It was incorporated with the large additions made by the second Sir Francis, and for nearly a century and a half formed part of the principal residence of the family of Radclyffe. From the gates of that residence Sir Edward's unfortunate descendant rode forth on his ill-starred enterprize; and after his execution his remains were brought down from London in haste and secrecy to be interred in the little chapel within its walls. In that humble, though wished-for resting place he is still sleeping, but his "pleasant Dilston Hall" is no longer there. The greater part of it was removed in 1768 to make room for a plainer and less striking edifice—so anxious were the new lords of Dilston to banish the house of Radclyffe from the recollections of the peasantry, and to destroy the temple of their idol.

<sup>6</sup> A fleak is, generally speaking, a hurdle. In 1401 the contractor for the new dormitory at Durham was bound to provide for his work "scaffalds, seyntres, et flekes." (*Hist. Dunelm. Scriptores Tres*. App. p. 188.) In 1486-7 the monks of Finchale pay 42*s.* "pro facturâ lez flekes, lez stakez, et adquisicione ramalium ac fodicione turbarum, ac facturâ le were pro reparacione stagni molendini de Fynkhal." (*Lib. Finchale*. App. p. 375.) The remains of this mill and the fleaks may still be seen in the Wear at Finchale. The fleaks are large, rudely shaped oak trees, fastened down in the water with iron cramps, hurdle-wise, and pinned down with large coble stones in the interstices.

In later times, in Yorkshire and elsewhere, a fleak was a hurdle, suspended horizontally, a foot or two from the top of a room. I have seen it frequently. It generally bears the cheese, bacon, &c., of the household. In 1609-10 Sir John Conyers had in his apple-house at Sockburne, "1 fleake hanging." Further information about this word may be gained by consulting Mr. Way's excellent edition of the *Prompt. Parv.* p. 165, and Jamieson's *Scottish Dictionary*, *sub voce flaik*.

As soon as his mansion was erected, Sir Edward, with a praiseworthy diligence, began to turn his attention to his estates. In them he had a goodly inheritance. The heiresses of Derwentwater and Cartington had brought to the house of Radclyffe a noble dower of broad lands and streams and towers. Their descendants had husbanded and improved their possessions with scrupulous care, and when Sir Edward became the owner of the estates, he found himself, comparatively speaking, a wealthy man. To add to his domains was now his chief ambition. An alliance with the wealthy heiress of the house of Barton, of Whenby, brought with it a great estate in Yorkshire. In October, 1629, he acquired the manor of Alston from Henry Hilton, Esq., the Melancholy Baron, paying for it 2,500*l.*; and, in the spring of 1632, he purchased the extensive barony of Langley, for a very large sum, from the Earl of Annandale.<sup>7</sup>

Sir Edward was now in the height of his prosperity. He had added largely to his inheritance. He had children to whom he could leave his wealth, and he had secured for his family a high position among the gentry of Northumberland. He was himself in the prime of life, and the favourite of fortune. What could he wish for more! Alas, a cloud was even now beginning to gather over his head which was to overshadow the remainder of his days, and to turn his gladness into sorrow! Sorrows, also, too frequently "come not single spies."

The first check to Sir Edward's prosperity was a claim laid by the Earl of Northumberland, in 1635, to certain portions of his estate in the neighbourhood of Dilston, viz., Dunston Wood, Middridge, Dilston Eales, and the common of pasture on the south bank of the Tyne belonging to Corbridge and Dilston.<sup>8</sup> Sir Edward, in answer to this demand, endeavoured to establish his title by prescription as well as by documentary evidence. Whether his replication was deemed sufficient or not, we have at present no means of ascertaining; but we may be sure that the suit would cause him considerable anxiety and no small expense.

The next blow which fell upon Sir Edward was the ban of ecclesiastical censure. Like the rest of his family, he was devotedly attached to the Roman Catholic religion, a faith which was then regarded with

<sup>7</sup> On the 26th of September, 1632, Sir Edward writes from Dilston to Elizabeth Countess of Annandale, saying that in Easter term last he had purchased the barony of Langley from the Earl of Annandale for a very large sum of money. He wishes to know if her jointure depends upon his new estate.

<sup>8</sup> The bill was put in by Richard Lambert, of Corbridge, clerk, and Martin Fenwick, gen., on behalf of the Earl of Northumberland. Sir Edward put in his answer on the 22nd of November. With reference to Dunston Wood he exhibited deeds confirming the same to his ancestors, made by the Percies 300 years before.

suspicion by the State, and subjected to many harsh and intolerant statutes. The Reformation was by no means an acceptable change to the people of the North, and their dislike to it was unmistakeably evinced by more than one insurrection. These repeated outbreaks caused no little alarm to the executive, and an ecclesiastical tribunal, called the Council for the North Parts, was established at York, to hold the turbulent in check, and to enforce, as far as they could, conformity to the Protestant religion. This powerful body, which could number among its members many of the nobles and gentlemen of the North, soon rose into importance. In the reign of James I., when intolerance was rampant, so many cases were submitted to the decision of this tribunal, that it was found necessary to establish a second court at Durham. Before it, in 1639, Sir Edward was summoned to appear. He was charged with suffering his children to be baptized, if they were baptized at all, by an unlawful minister. To this charge Sir Edward pleaded guilty, acknowledging that two of his children had been baptized at his own house at Dilston. He stated that he was ignorant of the law, but the members of the Council adhered to the old maxim, "*ignorantia legis non excusat*," and the culprit was fined £100. for each offence. Sir Edward was inclined to appeal against their decision, and placed his case in the hands of Dr. George Riddell, who had practised with great success in the court in which his client had been punished. Riddell, however, advised him to sue for a mitigation of his sentence and not to impeach its validity, stating at the same time his conviction, that, if the case had been in other hands, the result might have been a very different one. "You have foyled your businesse by want of advice at the first."

A heavier trouble than this was now at hand—a trouble which was the ruin of many a gallant house. The time was come when the Great Rebellion broke out, and the aid of every loyal subject was demanded by his king. To this appeal the gentry of Northumberland lent a ready ear. Sir Edward Radclyffe, with his two sons in law, Sir William Fenwick and Wm. Tunstall, were stout supporters of King Charles. Many of Sir Edward's friends and kinsmen adopted the same cause. The Carnabies, the Erringtons, the Swinburnes, the Claverings, and the Lawsons, were all in arms. Many a gallant cavalier rode to join the royal standard from Northumberland, and many left their homes to revisit them no more. There is no evidence to shew that the good knight of Dilston actually took the field; but, if we judge from the disasters that befel him, we have good reason for believing that he gave very valuable assistance to the royalists. In 1642 he was obliged, from the necessities of the times, to borrow 1200*l.* from his wife, and he also prevailed upon



her, for the saving of his inheritance, to pass away her estates in Yorkshire. We cannot but suppose too that he suffered from the depredations of the Scottish army when it advanced into England. The village of Newburn, the scene of a sharp combat between the Royalists and the Scots, is situated at no great distance from Hexham, and Dilston, the chief residence of so distinguished a Royalist as Sir Edward, would hardly escape a visit from the marauders. But the worst, unfortunately, was still to come. By an act of Parliament passed on the 4th of August, 1652, all his vast estates were declared to be forfeited, and were ordered to be sold for the use of the English navy. Nor were his sons-in-law more fortunate. The broad lands of Sir William Fenwick, of Meldon, were confiscated for the purposes of the state in the same year, and Marmaduke Tunstall, of Wycliffe, Esq., was compelled to redeem his ancient inheritance from the clutches of the Commonwealth by the payment of the large sum of 1,788*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, the heaviest fine in ready money that was inflicted in the North Riding of the County of York.

Sir Edward was now literally reduced to beggary. His estates were gone, and he was almost penniless. The cause for which he and his sons had spent their treasure and hazarded their lives had been an unsuccessful one. Old age was coming upon him, and poverty was investing it with new horrors. Well might he mourn in silence over the past, and look forward to the future with no hopeful eye. And when that day, so long wished for, so long expected, did arrive, when the rightful monarch was restored to his throne, it found Sir Edward Radclyffe a broken down old man in the 71st year of his age. His estates were indeed restored to him, but they were restored to a man whose head "was white with the blossoms of the grave."

Three years before this restoration took place, Sir Edward had made his will, in which he made his peace with God and the world. As this interesting document throws no little light upon his religious feelings, and gives us some insight into the trials which had assailed him, I am tempted to place it before my readers entire.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, Sir Edward Radcliffe, of Dilston, in the County of Northumberland, Baronet, beeing at this present in perfect health and memorye, (thankes be to God), and well knowing the certainty of death, and the uncertaintye of the time, place, and manner thereof; as also greatly feareinge that if it shal please God to call me sodainlie out of this transitorie life, when I shall least expect it, that by reason thereof those to whom I am most bound in charitie and nature to doe for, might be lefte altogether unprovided for, or at least uncertaine what meanes everie of them might or should expect, which neglect would be a great charge to my soule, when I shall make my account to God in the next life, and not little occasion of questions and

jarres amongst my nearest frends. THEREFORE, by his grace and assistance, I shall now instantlie doe what is in my power to prevent the same by makeinge this my last will and testament in forme following. FIRSR, I doe give and bequeath my soule into the hands of the most Holie and Indivisible Trinitie, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holye Ghost, one Almighty God and three Persons, beleeveing and hopeinge assuredly and undoubtedly by and through the death and passion of my sweet Saviour Jesus Christ to be saved; the meritts of whose passion I doe beleve to be applied unto me by his sacraments as instituted and ordained by himselve and lefte in our mother his holie Catholique and Apostolique Romane Church, and I a true member thereof, united to that head, hopeth by his grace to be capable of the benefitts of that Church which is, and must be, to the end of the world the onely saveing Church, so that for the better obtaineinge thereof I doe in respect of my unworthyness earnestly and humbly entreate and crave the intercession of my Patroness, the Blessed and Glorious Virgin Marye, the Mother of God, with my Patronesses St. Marie Magdalen, St. Katherine of Syenna, and St. Katherine of Alexandria, and my holie Patron St. Edward King and Confessor, with all the triumphant Church of Angells and Saints in Heaven, together with the prayers of his true militant Church in earth, and my bodie to be buried in my Chapple at Dilston, if I die in this Countie, which I will and desire, as my father did, who I hope is with God, be dedicated to the service of God in honnour of our blessed Ladie the mother of God.<sup>9</sup> EDWARD RADCLYFFE, 1657.

FIRST, I will and disire and by this my last Will and Testement doe declare that Dame Elizabeth my wife shall, during her life naturall, have and quietly houlde my Manor of Dillston, with all the other manors and lands to her by me assigned, limited and particularly nominated in a stayte<sup>10</sup> by me made in the year of God 1638, and lawfully

<sup>9</sup> The preamble is in a different hand, and has been pasted on to the will which is in the handwriting of the testator. It had probably been prepared for Sir Edward by his confessor and kept in readiness for any emergency.

<sup>10</sup> A state or an estate is equivalent to a settlement. To estate is to settle or entail. In the Richmondshire wills, p. 29, 30, is a will of Thomas Walker, of Bedale, dated in 1542-3, in which he leaves money for an obit and for the guilds at Bedale "and the covenantez of the said lande to remaying to myn executores, and the xxiiij to gaine a *stat* in it, to the use of the said will." In the Ecclesiastical Proceedings in the Court at Durham in 1624, it is said that "Richard Hilton, about 27 years ago, sold a parcell of ground in Bellerby, which he had bought and *estated* upon his son." Shakespere also uses the word, as in *As You Like It*, Act V. Sc. II., he says "For my father's house, and all the revenue that was old Sir Rowland's, will I *estate* upon you."

The word occurs both as a noun and a verb in the marriage articles of Sir William Fenwick and Elizabeth Radclyffe referred to hereafter. "Shall *state* all his lands. To the onely use of the said Sir William Fenwick" [in special tail male]—"The said *states* or assurances to be made, &c."

The lay reader will perhaps allow me to remind him that, in law, an estate is not the land, but the title or interest in fee or tail, for life or years, which a man has in it. In the above cited order to the Bedale Four and Twenty to create an estate, the noun is used in that sense. The verb as used above signifies "to create or convey an estate"; but the noun in the Fenwick settlement and Sir Edward's will is anomalous and confusing; it means "the instrument by which an estate is conveyed or created."

executed, as by the writings and indenturs therof under my proper hand and seale at armes will more at large appear, which stayte cannot nor ought not to be questioned by my heaire, for that I was then absolutely seased in fee simple and had the same drawn by learned Counsell accordinge to the Lawes of England, and senc pleaded, and allowed before the Commisanners for obstruccion at Worster-House, An. Do. 1653, as maye at large appeare by the entre therof at Drury House by the apoyntment of the Trustees for saile of Lands and Estates, etc., dated June the xith the said yeare, 1653. And in the same stayte is the severall portions of my daughters charged upon severall lands, everye of them not yet maryed, one thousand and five hundred pounds, I meane my four daughters that are not yet prefered in maradge, or otherwais, namely, Margret, Dorothy, Ann, and Barbary; for two of them, namely, Clare, and Ursalye, my son, Francis Radclyffe, hath entred security for their portion monys at their request, with which they weare well contented, all which he faithfully promised me well and truly to paie to everye of his sisters above named, which I charge him to doe and performe faithfully to the best of his powre as he will answer me before the Allmightie (I meane shuch of them as I have not paid in my life tyme), and then the lands are to be absolutely discharged of the portions limited to the saide Clare and Ursalye and not otherwayes; the said portions was also pleaded and allowed to them at Worster-House aforesaide at the same tyme in shuch sorte as is above declared, therefore not to be quistaned, beinge their undoubted right and child's portions, which God forbid any shoulde attempte to defraude them of, but contrarywise to rease the monys upon the Lands charged with all speade, accordinge to my intencion who purchased moore then three parts of the whole estayte, theirfore both in reason, concien, and gratitude, the heaire ought to be charged, for yf theis lamentable tymes had not so extremly disabeled me, I had undoubtedly freedde my heare of all these paymens as well as of his two maryed sisters, but God's will be dun now and at all tymes. I doe also by this my last will declare and make knownen to all men, that wheareas by five severall deads indented bearinge date the first daie of March, An. Do., 1648, their is limited severall manors, granges, lands, and tenements particulerly to six of my daughters above named for the tearme of one hundred or ninety-nine years for better secureing of the saide portions, beinge the same lands in the saide indenture or stayte by me made mensaned, dated An. 1638, which was by me dun for the better decleringe the tru meaninge of the saide Indenture of uses for and concerninge my saide daughters portions, and their is a proviso in every of the saide five indentures of the first of March, 1648, that yf the said Sir Edward Radclyffe should at any tyme intende to alter or make voide the saide deedes of demise, and declare so much in writinge before two witnesses, that then the saide deade or deads of demise and tearme of years shall be voyd and of no effecte. And I, the saide Sir Edward Radclyffe, is now determaned and mynded to revoucke and alter the same, and doe by these presents make voyde and of no effecte all and every of the saide five demised leases which is of the date of the first of March, 1648, above mensaned, accordinge to the power therin to me reserved, and for other good and lawfull conserations.

AND FURTHERMORE, I, the saide Sir Edward Radclyffe, doe by these presents give, grant, assigne, and set over, to Dame Elizabeth my saide wife, all my rent-charges, fee farm rents, and all other rents of that naime as I have or ought to have out of other mens lands within the Commen-welth or realme of England, ether with clause or without clause of redemption, as by the writings of every of them maye appeare, as well shuch free, or fee farme rents, as came to me from my ansistors, of all which I stand seased in fee-semple, as of all other rents of that nature, purchased by my selfe, and allso all that my rectory of Kirke-whelpington, in the county of Northumberland, which I ame seased of in fee semple. And in like sorte I, the said Sir Edward, doe give and bequith, to my saide wife, Dame Elizabeth, all my Coppiehoulde Lands in Hexhamshire, in the saide countye, namly, Whitley-milne and Gayre-shele, etc.: to have, and to houlde to her, and her assigns, and to dispose of all of them as she best pleasses, for her best profit and commoditie in consideration of 1200*l.* she lent me, at my house in Cumberland, Anno 1642, in my great nesassatye, which I faithfully promised to repaie to her agayne, and allways so intended, as I conceived both reason and contienc obledgeth me to doe, but least death prevent my reall intention, I thought it good and just thus to make it known to my heaire, for takinge awaye all occations of contraversie and contentions that might happen hereafter concerninge the premyses, etc. Also I give and bequith to my saide wife, all my playte, and the leases of the tythes of Dillston and Lourbottle, and all the rest of my goods and chattles, movable and unmovable, whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will and testement: I haveinge greate reason so to doe, and moore then ordenarye motives, especially for what at my motion and perswation I gott her to passe awaye her present right of Whenby, and Scousby, the lands in Yorkshire, to which she is haire from her father, which yf she had denyed, as many woulde, our whole steate (as the tymes then weare) had been in greate hazarde to have ben lost, as both my sonn and myselfe well knowes, for when it came to the point, no other lands would be tacken for securitytie. Mr. Tho. Riddell clameth tenn pounds yearly, duringe his life, payable the therd daie of Maye only, out of my estayte, which yf he require to contenu after my death, then my desire is that my sonn, Francis Radclyffe, paie and discharge the same from tyme to tyme, as it shall growe due, which, I hope he will, yf he be importunated by the saide partie who now clameth the saide annuatye of 10*l.* per annum for his life, as is above declared. Lastly, I earnestly require, disire, and charge my saide sonn and haire, Francis Radclyffe, Esq., that he be allways lovinge, obedient and assistant to his said mother, as in nature and dughtie he ought to be, and that he performe and macke good to the uttermost of his powre, what is above declared, specified, and bequethed, by this my last will, as he will answere me before the trybunyal of God Almightye, which I ame confident he will undoubtedlye doe and performe, my disires beinge both so resenable and conceivable to the judgement of all unabyased men as I verylye thinke, and that for severall conserederations as the worlde knowes, which I need not further to insiste upon. And for my saide wife's right, for her life, to her father's lands in Yorkshire, although she haith passed awaye her present right by fyne about 3 years sence, at

my earnest request, yet the tru meaninge is, and so acknowledged by my saide sonn, who was then personally present at Dillston, before severall witnesses, that his said mother shall neverthelesse have and houlde for her life the said lands in Yorkeshire, as the same shall hapen to fall, and accrue, after the death of my mother-in-law, and the now wife of one Collenel Crumwell, in shuch sort as is stated and limited in her father's deede of settlement at our maredge.

[The following is in another ink and written at a different time, but in the same hand.]—I doe make supervisors of this mi will my trustye freinds and kinsmen Marmaduke Tunstall,<sup>11</sup> of Wicliffe, Esqr., and Robert Delevale,<sup>12</sup> of South-Dissington, Esqr., whose best assistance I request in the premises, etc. Witnessse my hande and seale hearunto putt the 29th daie of June, Anno Dom. 1657.<sup>13</sup> EDWARD RADCLYFFE.

F. RADCLYFFE. JOHN ORDE. RALPH EMERSON. FRANCIS AYDON.  
RICHARD THORNBOROUGH. EDWARD BROWELL. JOHN RADCLIFFE.

29 Junii, 1657.

Sir Edward did not long survive the Restoration. His frame was worn out with the weight of cares and the infirmities of age, and he departed this life in December, 1663, in the 75th year of his age. His remains, it is said, were interred, according to his desire, in the little chapel of Dilston; but the subsequent investigations into the family vault in which the Radclyffes were interred revealed no trace of the coffins either of him or of his lady.

Upon the character of Sir Edward Radclyffe we may pass a favourable judgment. Some lines there are which time has effaced, and these we must retrace with a charitable pencil. It is the part of a mean spirit to speak unkindly of the departed. Other traits there are which stand out boldly, in spite of time and calumny, and out of them we may fairly build up the character of a loyal gentleman. Of his affection to his king his sufferings are the proof. He passed through a fiery furnace into which many were cast, and in which many were destroyed. And to the honour of the Roman Catholic gentlemen be it spoken, that they set a glorious example to the cavaliers of England in wasting their treasure and shedding their blood for a king who had been anything but tolerant of their religion. Of Sir Edward's affection to his faith sufficient evidence will be found in the preamble to his will, as well as in

<sup>11</sup> Marmaduke Tunstall, of Scargill, Esq., was married about 1606 to Catherine one of the two daughters and coheirresses of William Wycliffe, of Wycliffe, Esq. Through this marriage he received a large addition to his estates, and took up his residence at Wycliffe. As he was buried at Barningham on the 18th of August, 1656, it is somewhat singular that Sir Edward Radclyffe should appoint him one of his executors. His eldest son, William Tunstall, married Sir Edward's daughter.

<sup>12</sup> Robert Delaval, a member of the house of Delaval of Seaton Delaval.

<sup>13</sup> This will and that of Lady Radclyffe were proved at Durham.

the letter of condolence to his widow which I shall shortly mention. And yet, on one occasion at least, he shewed a kindness to the Church of England.<sup>14</sup> Of his affection to his family, let his will speak. His children were brought up in a troublous time, but they seem to have had an education and a provision which befitted their position. And to come to minuter points, the jewels which set off a portrait, we can observe the caution which is the attendant of a man of business, the desire for news which in a North Country gentleman of those days may well be excused, and the love for field sports<sup>15</sup> which the seclusion from the world which the Roman Catholic religion encourages had not extinguished. Mr. Gibson in his history of Dilston Hall has printed a letter of condolence, dated 23 [December?] 1663, which was written to Lady Radclyffe by John Holland, the Secretary of the Dean and Chapter of the English College in Lisbon, after her husband's decease, of which they had been apprized by letters from Mr. Salisbury. In this letter, Mr. Holland would sweeten Lady Radclyffe's sorrow by the reflection that her husband's "exemplary life in the best of virtues, especially in that of suffering in so eminent a manner for his faith, [will] embalm his fame, and so consecrate his memory to posterity, that nothing but the proposal of some high authority wants to enroll his name amongst the glorious confessors of Christ's faith." "Amongst his other pious works which follow him (continues the writer), we understand he hath

<sup>14</sup> Whitley Chapel, in Hexhamshire, dedicated to St. Helen, which had been long in ruins, was rebuilt shortly before the Restoration. Sir Edward Radclyffe was asked to subscribe to its renovation, and, in reply, wrote as follows: "I do well approve of this charitable work, and desire Wm. Rowland that he will deliver three trees in Dotland Park, for my part, for that use."—*Account of Charities in Tynedale Ward, Hexham*, 1780.

<sup>15</sup> In the following letter, Sir Henry Babington asks for a subscription to the horse races on Killingworth Moor—a course of no mean reputation. In 1673, John Dodsworth, of Thornton Watlass, Esq., leaves by will to Mr. Thos. Gabetis, of Crosby Ravensworth, "my silver flaggon which I wonne first at Killingworth Moore."

Worthy Sir,—Being presently to goe to London, and to collect the money for the horse race, for Sir John Fenwicke, whose yeare it is to bring in the plate, I have sent this hearer, my man, to yow first—being the worthiest benefactor to our country sports—with the note of al the forinders' names, to set a crose before every ons name that hath payd, and so remembering my service to yourselfe and brothers, I rest—Your affectionat frend, HENRY BABINGTON.—March 17th, 1621.

Received by me, Robert Butcher, servant to Sir Henry Babington, Knt., the sum of five pounds from the hands of Sir Edward Radcliffe, Baronet, for the contribution, amongst other gentlemen, to the horse race at Killingworth, payable yearly during the pleasure of the said Sir Edward, and in this yeare collected by Sr Henry Babington.—ROBERT BUTCHER + his marke.—March 18, 1621.

*In dorso.*—To my honourable frend Sr Edward Ratcliffe, Baronett, at Dilston, this.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Sir Edward Radcliffe, Bart. | 5l. |
| Sir John Fenwicke, Kt.      | 5l. |
| Sir Ralph Delavall, Kt.     | 5l. |
| Sir William Selby, Kt.      | 5l. |
| Sir William Widdrington     | 5l. |

pleased to bestow 400*l.* on our College at Lisbon, which, as it obliges us to pour out our prayers for the soul of so liberal a benefactor, so, by reason of the perfect union betwixt your hearts, we cannot but acknowledge we owe in part to the concurrence of your Ladyship's charity. Our care shall be so to take order, that it be duly applied to the end he intended it for, as withal to enjoin that house to place his name amongst their benefactors, for whom by obligation of their rules they all daily pray, and with his your Ladyship's."

The lady to whom this consolatory letter was addressed was Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Barton, Esq., of Whenby. The Bartons were a Yorkshire family of great antiquity and respectability, and were the owners of considerable estates. A goodly share of these were brought by their alliance into the house of Radclyffe. This was generously sacrificed by its inheritress during the civil war, for the relief of her husband and his property. Her ladyship, according to the letter which has just been given, was possessed of many of those virtues for which her husband was distinguished during his lifetime. "In their death they were not divided." She survived her lord about five years, and dying on the 19th of December, 1668, was laid beside him in the tomb. I give the following extracts from her will.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. The 18th of December, 1668, I, Dame Elizabeth Radcliffe, of Dilston, in the County of Northumberland, widow, beinge weake of body. . . desire that my body may be interred in the vault of the Chappell at Dilston, neare the tombe of my deceased husband. . . Whereas I have an annuity or rent charge of twenty pounds per annum, lawfull English money, payable to me by Francis Sutton, of Greencroft, in the County palatyne of Durham, gent., yearly, at one intire payment, that is to say, at the feast of St. Martin Bpp. in winter, I doe give tenn pounds yearly out of the said rent charge to the poore within the parish of Corbridge for ever, to be distributed to them yearly on St. Lucye's Day, or then abouts. Likewise I give foure pounds out of the aforesaid rent charge to the poore Roman Catholics of Hexham, which is to be yearly and for ever distributed to them on St. Lucye's daye, or then abouts. I give also foure pounds per annum to the poore of Bywell parish, but especially those of Whittenstall and Newlands, out of the aforesaid rent charge, which is yearly and for ever to be distributed amongst them on St. Lucye's day, or then abouts. And for the other two pounds of the aforesaid rent charge I give to the poore within the parish of Slely, yearly and for ever, which is to be distributed amongst them on St. Lucye's day, or then abouts.

[The testatrix then charges another rent charge of sixty pounds per annum, payable to her by the same Francis Sutton, with the following life annuities:—Francis Swinburne, five pounds; Ann Blenkinsop, five pounds; Richard Thornbrough, five pounds; Ann Ridley, four pounds; Mary Brabin, two pounds; Francis Merchand, two pounds; Margaret Clarke, two pounds; John Forster, one pound; Margrett Browne, one

pound; William Duckett, ten pounds; Robert Salisbury, fifteen pounds. The will then proceeds thus:—]I give to my grandchilde, Mr. Thomas Radcliffe, all the overplus of the aforesaid rent charge of sixty pounds per annum, as alsoe the reversions of the aforesaid annuities abovenamed when they shall become due, after the deaths of the abovenamed respectively, soe that my will is that the aforesaid rent charge of sixty pounds per annum, in reversion, shall be put forwards for the use of my said grandchilde. . . I give one hundred pounds to be disposed of as my executors know. I give two hundred pounds to my daughter Dorothy Radcliffe. I give two hundred pounds to my daughter Barbara Radcliffe. Whereas my sonn in law, Mr. Nicholas Fenwicke, haith of mine in his hands two hundred pounds, I give the use of the said two hundred pounds to my daughter Margaret, his wife, dureinge her life naturall, which she is to devide among her three children at her death as followeth, to witt, sixty pounds to her son Robert, forty pounds to her sonn Andrew, and one hundred pounds to her daughter Elizabeth. I give to my daughter, dame Elizabeth Slingeby, the use of one hundred pounds, which she hath of mine in her hands, dureinge her life naturall, and att her death I give the said hundred pounds to her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Slingsbye. Whereas my grandchild, Francis Tunstall, Esq., hath in his hands one hundred pounds of mine, I give itt as followeth, to witt, I give to him; my said grandchilde, Francis Tunstall, twenty pounds; to his brother, Mr. Thomas Tunstall, I give fiftene pounds; and to his sister, Mrs. Mary Liddell, I give twenty pounds; to his sister, Mrs. Christian Tunstall, I give fiftene pounds; to his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Tunstall, I give fiftene pounds; to his sister, Mrs. Ann Crathorne,<sup>16</sup> I alsoe give fiftene pounds; I give to my two daughters, Clara and Ursula Radcliffe, fifty pounds betwixt them; I give to my grandchilde and god-daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Radcliffe, one hundred pounds; I give twenty pounds a peece to each of these my grandchildren, to witt, Edward Radcliffe, Esq., and Mr. Francis Radcliffe, and Mr. William Radcliffe, and Mr. Arthur Radcliffe, and Mrs. Margaret Radcliffe, and Mrs. Catharin Radcliffe, and Mrs. Mary Radcliffe, to each of these, I say, I give twenty pounds, to buy each of them a peece of plate as a remembrance of me. I give fifty pounds to be distributed at my death amongst poore people, according as my executors shall judge most expedient. The rest. . . to my sonn, Sir Francis Radcliffe, Baronett, and to my daughter, Mrs. Ann Radcliffe, whom I make and ordaine joynt executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, &c. Test. WILLIAM DUCKETT, RICHARD THORNBROUGH, ROBERT SALISBURY.

. By the lary whose will has just been given, Sir Edward had a family of ten children, two sons and eight daughters.

<sup>16</sup> The children of William Tunstall and Mary Radclyffe. Of these, *Francis*, the eldest son, married Cecilia, daughter of Lord Viscount Dunbar, and was buried at Wycliffe on the 4th of May, 1713, leaving a family by her. *Thomas* Tunstall is said to have died at York. *Mary* became the wife of Henry Liddell, of Farnacres, Esq. *Christian* was a nun. *Elizabeth* married an Irish gentleman of the name of Carrol, and *Anne* married Ralph Crathorne, Esq., of Crathorne and Ness. Poulson, in his History of Holderness, adds another daughter, *Margaret*, who became a nun.



Both of the sons bore their grandfather's name, Francis. The elder of the two died in his infancy, and as the younger has already been brought before you in the pages of this journal, I shall not allude to him here.

Of the daughters, MARY RADCLYFFE was the eldest born. She was married to the eldest son of an ancient house, WILLIAM TUNSTALL, Esq., of Wycliffe, in Richmondshire, by whom she had several children. The family of Tunstall was of illustrious descent, and in the last generation had acquired one-half of the possessions of the Wycliffes of Wycliffe, by an alliance with the co-heiress of that time-honoured house. Tunstall was born in 1613, and came into possession of the family estates on the death of his father in 1656. His father was a stout cavalier, and compounded with the Parliament for his estates by a fine of 1788*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The son was also devoted to the royal cause, but the heavy fine which was laid upon the sire seems to have atoned for the iniquities of the son. I insert a couple of letters addressed by William Tunstall to his father-in-law, Sir Edward, which shew that he took no little interest in the politics of the day. It is not improbable that he was a soldier himself. My father possesses a portrait representing either him or his sire, shewing a stern-faced man, rather short in stature, arrayed in his corslet of steel, and looking war.

Worthey Sir,—I am mightley glade of your fredum, for I was much afraid of it when I hearde that the Frenchman was trested with it, fearing that he might have bene as long in his returne as he was a cuming, for Sir Nicolas Thornton and I was much greved that William Porter should not have brought it to Richmond, for I had tould Sir Niccolas that I would bring it to you. Sir, upon Weddensday gon a sennet, the Scotese set upon a littel fort at the Sheldes<sup>17</sup> and was forsed backe, but the horse would not let the foute rune. Upon the place where they first asalted it there laye maney deade bodeyes. Upon the next asalt, being the same daye,<sup>18</sup> they brought of there men, but with greate losse to them, Tinmouth Castel and the fort playing hotley upon them, and it was thought they lost towe hundred men that daye; but theye gave it not over. Soe for the last Weddensdaye<sup>19</sup> they set upon it againe, and gained the fort and five<sup>20</sup> eyron pesse of ordenance in it, our men fleying doune to a penisse in which it was reported that Sir John Pennington was in, but the penisse discharginge sume ordenance at the

<sup>17</sup> These details of the Shields engagements are of considerable importance to the local historian. The account of the Scots may be seen in a letter, written from their army at Wetherby, 20 April, 1644, in Richardson's Reprints.

<sup>18</sup> The Scot places the first attack on *Friday*, 15th March, and the second on *Saturday*, the 16th. These days seem to be correct, as in 1644 the 17th of March was on a Sunday.

<sup>19</sup> The Scot agrees. Tuesday was a solemn fast.

<sup>20</sup> The Scot's letter gives the same number.

Scotes they retreated; and, it is said, they lost 3 houndred men at the takeing of it, and we losing but five men.<sup>21</sup> I heard this daye that Curonel Hastings hath taken 3 hundred of the enimies horse heard byrout Neworke, it haveing bene beseged; it is said that Prince Rupert hath raised the seige there and is cuming for Bushuprige. This with my dutye to you and my good mother in lawe, and my love to brother Radcliffe and my sisters, I humbly take leve, and rest

Your son in lawe to command,

*Wicliffe, this 22th of March, [1643-4.]*

WILLIAM TONSTALL.

Most Honored Sir,—I give you many thanks for your care and truble consarning the horse I have reseved by Robert Graye. I went to Richerd Smithson to inquire of him consarning the businesse you writ to me about; as far as I can perseve by him it nothing consarneth you. It is twentie pound a year out of Befront, granted to one whose name is Knight; this is all consarning that busines I could doe. Sir, consarning your busines at Whenby, I can doe nothing in it, for since my coming home I have hired a scole master into the house, soe that my journey thether is stopped; if I can learne of aney that goeth thether I shall git them to in quire whether she reseved your former letter or noe; but not knoweing of aney I thought good to send you your letter bak to you againe. For newes I heare none but that Barwicke should be taken by the Scotes; I suppose you will heare the sartantey of that before this cometh to your handes; I have it from a verey good hand. My wiffe and I give you and my mother in lawe maney thanks for your rabebetes. Thus with mine and my wiffes dutie to you and my good mother, desireinge your blessinges to us all, with our loves to my brother Radcliffe and all my sisters, I humbly take leave, and rest

Your obedient son in lawe while I am

*Hutton, this 7th of January, 1649.*

WILLIAM TONSTALL.

Tunstall's will is before me, dated at Barningham, May 9, 1668, in which he desires—

To be interred among my ancestours in a decent sorte at the descretion of my deare wife. And for my worldly goods, I thus dispose them which are not allready settled. All my ancient lands (except Barningham) are already settled upon my son Tunstall's marriage, and Barningham is charged with my son Thomas his annuity and my brother Francis and his wive's, and so charged 'tis settled upon my marriage to my now wife. Whereas by my marriage covenant I am obliged when her portion should come to me, to add so much as should purchase 100*l.* per annum in land of inheritance for my issue by her, and since

<sup>21</sup> The discrepancy of numbers is amusing. Evidently those of the above letter are exaggerated. The Scot's letter states that sixteen of the besieged were killed, and that a lieutenant and five soldiers, who stood out to the last, were taken. The rest fled by boats. "The providence of God wonderfully preserved our men, for only seven of them were killed, some few hurt with stones and cut iron, but none deadly." But in military numbers these *ex parte* letters are as false as are our old chronicles.

which covenants I have had occasion for 1000*l.* of her portion, which her friends have advanced to me, and I have disposed of it for my daughters' portions and other uses, instead of the said 100*l.* per annum, I will that my house in Barningham and as much of my land as shall come to the sum of 120*l.* per ann. shall come to my said wife, with remainder to my son Thomas Tunstall and my brother Francis.<sup>22</sup> To my uncle Matthew Middleton, of Stokeld, gent., and my brother Raphe Clavering, of Callaly, Esq., my lands and tolls in Bowes, on trust to pay my debts. To my brother Clavering 100*l.*, to be disposed to such uses as I have directed him.<sup>23</sup>

The testator died at Barningham on the 30th of August, 1668, and was interred in the parish church on the 2nd of September following. His widow proved his will seven days afterwards.<sup>24</sup>

ELIZABETH RADCLYFFE, Sir Edward's third daughter, became the second wife of SIR WILLIAM FENWICK, of Meldon. Sir William was the second son of Sir William Fenwick, of Wallington, and was knighted by James I. at Cavers, in Scotland, in 1616. The marriage articles between Sir William and his father-in-law (therein described as of the Isle in Derwentwater) are dated on the 18th of September, 1641. Fenwick pledged himself to settle all his lands, of which he was seized either in fee simple or fee tail, upon his issue by his intended wife, and promised to give in a rent roll shewing a clear yearly income of 1000*l.* as a

<sup>22</sup> Francis Tunstall, the younger brother of the testator, was connected with Northumberland by his marriage with Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Riddell, of Fenham. He was united to her before Timothy Whittingham of Holmeside Esq. on the 18th of January, 1659-60. Some of his descendants in the male line are, I believe, still living.

<sup>23</sup> From the Registry at Richmond.

<sup>24</sup> There is not in this will any evidence of the existence of those treasures for which, in after times, the family of Tunstall became distinguished. In the inventory the plate enumerated consists only of a silver presenter, three tankards, one sugar box, 23 silver spoons, large and small, six salts, two porringers, four tasters, and a caudle cup. These are valued at 40*l.* The testator's study contained merely a case of drawers, an iron chest, a desk, two old cabinets, and some law books worth 5*l.* The collection of works of art, and the magnificent library which were at Wycliffe in the latter part of the succeeding century had not yet been formed. These treasures were afterwards dispersed by public sale. The splendid museum of natural history and curiosities was sold to Mr. Allan, of Grange, and was resold, some thirty years ago, to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The greater part of the books were bought by Mr. Todd, of York, and from one or two articles in his catalogue we can form some notion of the value of his purchases. He advertises "A capital, rare, and curious collection of Portraits, British and Foreign, selected and adapted to History, and inserted in their proper places; including above *two thousand Portraits of Royal and Noble Personages, &c., &c.*, by the most eminent artists, formed by Marm. Tunstall, Esq., and bound in twelve volumes, atlas folio, 300*l.* A very curious collection of books in *manuscript*, mostly upon Heraldical subjects, viz, Visitations of Counties, Miscellaneous Pedigrees, Ancient Arms, Heraldry, Anecdotes, Alphabets of Arms, Crests, Old Deeds, Seals, &c., &c., in *one hundred and fifty volumes*, 200*l.*!" At another sale in 1824, the furniture and pictures were dispersed. My father became the purchaser of several interesting portraits, including an original of Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham.

dowry for his wife. He engaged also to allow his estates to be charged with the portions of his daughters by the same wife. Sir Edward, on his side, undertook to give his daughter a marriage present of 1500*l.*, the whole of it to be paid before the month of December, 1643. A long time seems to have elapsed before these articles were fulfilled. The alliance, a childless one, was probably consummated at once, but there were many things to prevent the immediate completion of the contract. The Great Rebellion broke out soon afterwards, in which Sir William Fenwick took the King's part and became a stout ally to the royal cause. His long absences from home would not permit of any conference with his father-in-law or his lawyers. The pen was laid aside for the sword, and his marriage articles were forgotten. In June, 1650, Sir Edward writes to him on the subject in the following terms.

Sonne Fenwicke,—I thinke it convenient to put yow in mynd of such particulars as are menconed in the articles betwixt us about the tyme of your marriage, concerninge the dowry and interest my daughter, your now wife, ought to have out of your estate, according to the true meaning of the said articles, and what yow then declared and promised, which was testified under your hand and seale, etc. ; the performance whereof both in conscience and credit I did not much doubt, neither doe I yet, otherwise I had not delayed the calling upon you for effecting and perfecting the same by advice of counsel ere now ; but, seeing that in regard of those miserable tymes wee cannot with conveniency have verball conference together, I doe by this my letter, in the behalfe of my said daughter, demaund performance of the said articles and agreement, especially in these 2 particulars. First, that wee may have a particular in writeing of your lands, etc., that shall amount to bee of the cleare yearely value of one thousand pounds, which is or shall bee lyable for her dowry or widdow right, if she happen to survive you ; or soe much land particularly nominated, and discharged of all incumberances, as shall bee a full third part att least of the said some ; and for better discovering thereof I pray bee pleased to deliver the writings and states of the said lands to your wife, that they may bee perused for her best advantage in settling the said joynture, for better avoiding any questions or contentions that may arise hereafter, for neglect thereof, amongst your children and friends, which I suppose yow earnestly desire now in your lifetyme. In pursuance whereof I request your answer in writeing, and that the busines may bee speedily perfected by your approbation and directions upon conference with your wife, whom it most concernes to sollicite yow in the premises. And soe in the interim, commendinge my best wishes to your selfe, rests Your loving Father in lawe, E. R. 1650.

*Dilston, June the sixt, 1650.*<sup>25</sup>

I remember you told me long since that diverse lands of yours were purchased in other menns names, all which, I would advise you, might

<sup>25</sup> "The articles of agreement between Sir Edward Radclyffe and Sir William Fenwicke was sent backe to Meldon this sixt of June, 1650."

be speedily taken notice of and assigned to your selfe, they being seized in trust only, etc.

*For Sir William Fenwicke, Knt. att his house att Meldon, these.*

Whether this letter obtained its end or not we have no means of ascertaining. It is quite possible that the emergencies of the period<sup>26</sup> rendered any settlement impossible.<sup>27</sup> Sir William was in great jeopardy of losing his estates for his adherence to King Charles; and, in the spring of 1652, he was in London to avert, if possible, the threatened ruin. He was here attacked by the illness which brought him to his grave, accelerated, no doubt, by his many cares and troubles. His complaints had assumed so serious a form that Sir Edward sent a messenger to enquire after his health, and it was in answer to his messages and kind offices that Sir William wrote the following letter, the last, in all probability, that proceeded from his pen. The epistle is a characteristic one, and it is amusing to see how the gallant cavalier turns from his own complaints to give the news which his father-in-law would be so glad to hear.

Loving Sir,—Heare was on Forster cam from you to see me, I thank you, and thow I be a very ill penman at this time, God send better, for my pane will hardly suffer me to writ to my wife, but I hop Hee doth all for the best, thou I am hopeles of any remydy but from Him, yet I am not much trubiled with sicknes, but in dead my pane is worse then any sicknes. For neuse here is littill sturing. The King of Franc is verily beleaved to have got a defeat of 2 or 3000 by the Prence of Cundy, and the Spaniard have beseged Gaveling and is thought to cary it as the rumor goyes, and is thought to have tackin Bassalond in Catelone. The English<sup>28</sup> and we-ar thought absolutly to agre for sending for the additionall bill of sall. Ther is nothing acted as yet, but every one mack ther condetion known to ther freindes and by petetiones to the house in generall, least they may suffer whearin they ar not guilty, for it is thought ther wille be tow or 3 quallifications for the Catholicikes petetion, they

<sup>26</sup> On the 11th of the month following the date of the letter—July—one of Oliver's companies quartered "at Sir William Fenwick's, 4 miles beyond Morpeth." (*Memoirs of Capt. John Hodgson.*) This was in the Dunbar campaign.

<sup>27</sup> This letter from Lady Fenwick refers to her marriage articles.

"Deare father,—I have desired this bearer, Robert Barron, to come on purpose to you for the other part of the artickles which you were pleased to promis to send mee this day, I would gladly have them for I perceave, by my cosen Fenwicke, that Mr. Brownell intends to bee in these parts at Lamas next. Thus with my dutie presented to you and my deare mother, desiringe your blissings, I rest, Your lovinge daughter till death, ELIZABETH FENWICKE.—Meldon, this 16th of July, 1654.

My sister presents her dutie to you and my mother and desires your blissinge.

For her deare and Honrd. Father, Sr Edward Radclyffe, Baronnet, these present at Dilston."

The bearer obtained "the articles under the hand and seal of Sir William Fenwicke" for "my daughter Fenwicke."

<sup>28</sup> The members of the Church of England.

have had sevell and curteus answeres, and respectes, so few ar in great hopes and otheres in as great feares; God, no dut, doth all for the best. Thus, seasing to be trubilsom, with my best wishis to yourselfe, your good lady my mother in law, and all youres, I tack leave, and rest

Your loving sonn in law,

*From London, the 12 of April, 1652.*

WILLIAM FENWICKE.

*In dorso.*—To the much Honored and my very loving father in law, Sr Edward Ratlife, Knight Baronet, these. Received from Robert Foster, of Duxfeild, April 22, 1652. [*manu E. R.*]

The forebodings of the writer were soon realized. In a month's time he was in his grave. On the 31st of May his remains were carried from his lodgings, in Gray's Inn lane, to the church of St. Andrew's Holborn, where they were interred. An unknown bard, perchance honest George Forster, the ejected rector of his parish, sang the praises of the deceased knight in an epecedium which was addressed to his father-in-law, and which passed away with the muniments of the Radclyffes to Greenwich Hospital.

#### EPECEDIUM

SACRED TO THE HONOURED MEMORIE OF THE  
REALLY RELIGIOUS AND TRULY VIRTUOUS SIR  
WILLIAM FENWICK, OF MELDEN, IN COUN-  
TY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, KNIGHT

DECEASED

The much honoured

Sir

W ith all the wealthy epethites of Verse,  
F ame (virtues garland) decks a good man's herse.  
I n times vast ruines marble may lye lost;  
E ngraven Brass bears no eternal boast.  
L ong life's a soon tould Tale, a toye, cal'd Breath;  
N othing but virtue outlives time and Death.  
L ong this belov'd true Gentleman did live  
W ith all the praise impartial fame could give.  
I n spight of Envie that due praise shall last;  
I njurious Lightning cannot Laurel blast.  
A nd though Earth shroud his earth, his purer part  
C onsociat's Angells: and virtues desert  
M akes his much honour'd, antient, belov'd name  
K eep in the Sphear of a *Refulgent Fame.*

*Of Melden, in the County of Northumberland,  
Knight, Deceased.*

On the 2nd of November the blow which had hastened the death of this brave gentleman fell upon his family; the whole of his

estates were forfeited to the Commonwealth for treason. I am not aware that there is any memorial of the sufferer in the church of St. Andrew's Holborn, but in the south wall of the little church which looked down upon his mansion in Northumberland, there lies an effigy of a knight in armour, rudely carved in sandstone, which is supposed to commemorate the first and the last of the Fenwicks of Meldon.

A portrait of Sir William Fenwick, on wood, representing him in a white vest, playing with a monkey, was at Ford Castle in 1813. It was formerly at Dissington, and was called by the people of the place, Admiral George Delaval.<sup>29</sup>

Dame Elizabeth Fenwick, Sir William's widow, remarried Sir Robert Slingsby, of Nowsells, in Hertfordshire, by whom she had an only daughter.

Margaret, Sir Edward Radclyffe's second daughter, became the wife of Nicholas Fenwick, of Wylam. About her and her five sisters, all of whom died unmarried, I can state nothing with which my readers are unacquainted.

With Sir Edward and his family I have now done. Of the fortunes of his descendants much has been elsewhere said. Few families have been more unfortunate and more beloved. Sir Edward reared for himself a house—of that house not one stone remains upon another. He endeavoured to raise his family to greatness—who does not know the issue of this greatness when it was at length secured? The very honours of the Radclyffes were their ruin. He married three of his daughters into three antient houses—each of those houses has withered branch and stem! There seemed to be a curse resting upon the house which no offering could expiate and no disaster banish. Other lords have entered upon the estates which he collected for his children, and the inheritance of the Radclyffes is among strangers. The aged seaman, who has been a trusty servant to his country, can now have an asylum where he can rest in peace till the storms of life are over, but little does he know or think of the brave deeds and the misfortunes of those once loyal gentlemen whose estates have enriched the Royal Hospital of Greenwich.

JAMES RAINE, JUN., M.A.

*Crook Hall, Durham.*

\* \* FRANCIS RADCLYFFE, Sir Edward's brother, born 10 March, 1599-1600, was a knight of Coastley, in Northumberland; and, having mar-

<sup>29</sup> Mr. Hodgson's History of the Parish of Meldon, ex inform. Rad. Spearman de Eachwick arm.

ried Margaret,<sup>30</sup> daughter of Sir Thomas Riddell, of Gateshead, afterwards lived there. He died issueless, and, to judge from his scanty substance as detailed in the inventory taken after his death, had given up housekeeping and retired to East Denton. The following is the marrow of his will, accompanied by the inventory :—

Sir Francis Radeliff, of East Denton, knt., infirme in body—Whereas I am seized in fee of an annuity of 40*l.*, granted to me by Sir Thomas Riddall, knt., my late father in lawe, deceased, for 500*l.* lent to him in his life, being parte of the marriage porcion of Margaret Riddell, my late deare wife, deceased, by indenture dated 30 Aug. 12 Car. I. out of St. Edmond's Lands, I give it to my welbeloved servant and freind Wm. Porter, of East Denton, gent. To Mrs. Margaret Thorneton, of Witton Sheilds, 40*l.* To my neece, Mrs. Anne Errington, of East Denton, widdow, 40*l.* To my neece, Mrs. Cath. Riddell, 20*l.* To my two neeces, Mrs. Jane and Mrs. Margt. Riddell, each 5*l.* To my loveing freind, Mrs. Jane Kirkbride, 5*l.* Whereas Ralph Clavering, of Callaly, Esq., is indebted to me in 30*l.* principall money, and in the principall summe of 250*l.* parcell of 500*l.* which is secured to me by a rent charge of 40*l.* per ann. out of the mannors of Callaly and Duddo, if within 6 mo. after my decease he pays 200*l.* the rest to be forgiven him.—Wm. Porter, sole executor.—3 Oct. 26 Car.

*Inventory.* 12 April, 1675. East Denton.

His pursse and apparell, 80*l.* One watch, with a duble silver caise, and one silver tobacko box, 2*l.* 10*s.* 5 bookes, 1*l.*—Summe, 83*l.* 10*s.*

<sup>30</sup> In Mr. Surtees's Radclyffe Pedigree her name is correctly given, but in that of Riddell she is called Mary, and her husband is styled "of Dilston, Bart.," by a confusion with Sir Edward's heir.