

# XXXII.—RESEARCHES INTO THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS OF THE REV. ROBERT THOMLINSON, D.D.<sup>1</sup>

BY WILLIAM SHAND.

[Read on the 23rd December, 1891.]

WESTWARD of Carlisle there is a land, for the most part unknown to the tourist, but yet possessing considerable interest. Much of it lies within the ideal scenery of sir Walter Scott's *Redgauntlet*, a novel evidently little read in the district, if I may judge from the ignorance of an intelligent passenger whom I met in the train within sight of a building figured in some of the illustrated editions as the type upon which the house called in the novel 'Fairladies' is described. This person seemed astonished to have lived all her life within reach of the enchanter's wand, and yet to have found herself completely untouched by its local influence.

Rising like an island amongst the billows of a rolling landscape, is what remains of the manorial residence of Blencogo. It is a poor place, and probably never was a very distinguished mansion. The name is curious, and one would like to penetrate its etymology. Blencowe is a local family name of distinction in Cumberland; but *go* is a rare termination anywhere in this country, albeit it adheres to the name of the second city in the land in point of population. The origin of *gow*, in Glasgow, is always referred to the Celtic, because the first syllable is supposed to be clearly such. Dr. Guest has something about some such sound, meaning a ford, in the Cambrian Celtic; but the Cumbrian Celtic seems to have been lost, and there is no ford near Blencogo, although the Waver is not very far off. Most of us know something about the termination *gau*, as applied to the Rhinegau, Aargau, Neckargau, etc., one of the commonest Suabian local terminations. I do not know how to apply that particle to Blencogo; and that is all I shall say.

It lies in an enormous parish, that of Bromfield, which extends from the parish church, nine miles down to the sea on the south-west, at Allonby. Blencogo is about two miles in the opposite

<sup>1</sup> See also 'Memoir of Dr. Thomlinson,' by Mr. Shand, *Arch. Ael.*, vol. x. pp. 59-79, and by the Rev. E. H. Adamson, pp. 80-87.

direction; that is to say, towards Carlisle, from which it may be distant by road about fifteen miles. Bromfield is approached by a line of railway coming across the Solway from Scotland, and terminating amongst the Cumbrian collieries at Brayton, on the Maryport and Carlisle line. There is, therefore, a choice of access to Bromfield; either from the north, by Abbey junction on the Silloth line, over which the Scotch line passes for a few miles after crossing the Solway, near Annan, on the one side, and Bowness on the other; or from the south by way of Brayton. Bromfield is a place of such slender traffic as to be marked out by a row of stars on the time-table: the meaning of which is, that if you have the courage to ask them, the railway people will stop the train to let you down or pick you up. They were good enough to do so for me one morning, and thereafter I quickly found out the good parson of the town, who kindly laid open to me all his records. They swarm with Thomlinsons; of that name there are from ninety to one hundred entries, although at present there remains only one family of the name in the parish.

The earliest Thomlinson in the books, and it is one of the earliest entries, is that of the baptism of Frances, daughter of Edward Thomlinson of Blencogo, on the 20th December, 1656. It is followed by a record of her burial on the 12th January following; but on the 25th November, 1657, the father's household is brightened by another daughter, Julian, whose death is not recorded. Most of the entries record baptisms, and there are only six marriages of Thomlinsons. There are thirty-six deaths of Thomlinsons recorded in the course of one hundred and twenty years from the first entry in 1657. There is a special entry in which William Thomlinson is witness, under date 23rd September, 1668, to the measuring of the churchyard wall of Bromfield, 'where,' it is said, 'Mr. Calverley hath thirteen yards.' To this entry an explanation will be given farther on. The entries are divided between Thomlinsons of Blencogo, Thomlinsons of Langbarn, of Mealrigge, of Wheyrigg, of Newton, of Lowscals, and latterly of Crookdake, which is the residence of the only existing family of Thomlinsons in the parish.

The church, dedicated, like so many within the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde, to St. Kentigern, is of the usual type of the district: a low building with small windows, aisle, choir, and transepts imper-

fectly developed. There is a small belfry on the peak of the western gable, and a porch on the south side. It is a most interesting place to archaeologists; but that is not in the way of my business at present.

Fastened to the end of one of the pews in the church there is a curious brass plate. It bears at the top the effigy of a shield on which there are three greyhounds *courant*, with a crest above representing a female figure nude to the waist, where it ends. The right arm is lifted, and the hand grasps, at a level with the top of the head, a spear, the shaft of which crosses obliquely the root of the neck, passing in front of the left breast, and so down towards the top of the shield, near which it is grasped by the left hand, the barbed point being carried below the sinister upper corner of the shield into vacancy. Of such a crest I do not find in the heraldic books which I have been able to consult a single trace or resemblance, save only as this identical crest is referred to in Burke's *General Armoury*. The shield is divided into two by a vertical line in the centre, *per pale* in heraldry, on the left of which (dexter half in heraldry) the smooth surface represents *argent*, whilst the closely parallel lines sloping downwards from left to right in the sinister half represent *vert*. The three greyhounds are *in pale*; that is to say, one above another across the divided field. These three greyhounds form the generally adopted cognisance of the Thomlinsons, taken, without any doubt, from the celebrated Yorkshire family of Mauleverer. Underneath the shield is the following inscription:—‘Near this Pew lies the body of William Thomlinson of Blethcogo | Gentleman, who Died March 6<sup>th</sup> 1743, Aged 86 Years. He was a religious man | and brought up his Children in the fear of God. Also Margaret his Wife | who Died March 7<sup>th</sup> 1749, Aged 84 Years. She was A Woman of great | piety. They had Children, John now Rector of Glenfield in LEICEST | ERSHIRE, Who Married Katharine Daughter of James Winstanley | of Braunston Esquire in the Parish of Glenfield, and has one Son John. | Richard a Merchant at Newcastle upon Tyne and at LONDON | who Married Elizabeth Daughter of Edward Repington of Amington Esquire, near Tamworth. Afterwards Anna Maria only Child | of John Wing Esquire of Wallingford in BERKS, by whom he had one | Son William Isabel Married to Proctor Robinson Alderman of CARLI | SLE, who left two Sons and three Daughters. William partner with his | brother Richard Died unmarried and is

buried in St. John's Wapping LONDON. Katharine Married to Matthew Robinson Attorney at Law in LONDON, and is buried by her brother William, they left one Son Robert who is now at Sea. Robert the youngest Child of NEW ENGLAND Died unmarried at ANTIGUA and was buried there. 1758.' The date at the end is that of the brass. The inscription is in script.

Reverting for a moment to the arms on this tablet, we may here mention that the arms borne by Dr. Thomlinson are given by Surtees, *Durham*, vol. ii. p. 240, as : *Party per pale argent and vert three greyhounds in course counterchanged, impaling, azure, on a chief indented three martlets argent*. Crest, a greyhound *party per pale* as in the coat.

Burke, in his *General Armoury*, gives the arms of the Gateshead Thomlinsons from the *Durham Visitation* of 1615 : *Per pale wavy argent and vert three greyhounds courant counterchanged, a chief indented azure*. These are evidently taken from the same source.

The Blencogo arms in Burke are : *Per pale wavy argent and vert, three greyhounds courant counterchanged, a chief indented azure*. Crest, a greyhound *per pale*, as in the arms ; sometimes a savage wreathed about the middle proper, holding in both hands a spear headed at each end *or*.

The three martlets *argent* seem to be a specialty of Dr. Thomlinson. No chief, however, and of course no martlets, are visible on his seal as appended to the copies of his will of 1741 in the papers belonging to this society. The martlets must have been granted by the heralds of his day.

In Glover's *Visitation of Yorkshire*, 1584-5 and 1612, we find the arms of Mauleverer of Allerton : '*Gules, three greyhounds courant in pale argent collared or*. Crest, on a *torce argent and gules a greyhound statant collared or*.' There is much variety in the tinctures of the Mauleverer arms, and in one case the greyhounds are reduced to two on the shield. But the general features are the same. Greyhounds always running, except in the crest where a single greyhound is standing, varied, as Mr. Longstaffe points out, in several elegant ways, as for instance by a tree stock with branches, or a maple leaf, which Mr. Longstaffe ascribes to an alliance with the Colvilles ; but never, so far as I know, does any wreathed savage carrying a spear occur.

The William Thomlinson commemorated by this brass was an elder brother of Dr. Robert Thomlinson, but not the eldest. The

first child of Richard Thomlinson, their father, seems to have been named after himself; but, if so, that child, born 21st July, 1646, died before reaching maturity, for another son, Richard, was baptized 8th November, 1665. John Thomlinson, afterwards rector of Rothbury, was the next son, born in 1651; and afterwards William, born 1657.

In the registers of Bromfield parish there are Thomlinsons of Blencogo previous to this person's advent. The father of those whom we have just named lived at Akehead, in the parish of Wigton; and there, not only the eldest and several others were born, but also the youngest of ten, Robert, afterwards rector of Whickham.

John Thomlinson, the eldest, after the death of the first Richard, was for a short time vicar of Bromfield. His father soon afterwards, in 1680, purchased of Walter Calverley, the parsonage, rectory, and church of Bromfield, and the advowson, gift and presentation to the vicarage of Bromfield and other property in the parish, but not at Blencogo, which never was Calverley's. Two seats in the parish church were reserved for the latter, who possessed altogether a great deal of property in the parish. In the meantime, that is to say in 1678, John Thomlinson obtained the preferment of Rothbury, the richest living in the gift of the dean and chapter of Carlisle, by the same influence no doubt by which the afternoon lectureship of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, was afterwards procured for his youngest brother, Robert, in 1695. The registers of the parishes west of Carlisle show us a great number of Thomlinsons, for whose common ancestor it were in vain to seek. The records of Carlisle itself present us with many persons of that name.

The earliest parish records as yet examined in this enquiry are those of Dalston parish, where we have a Thomas Thomlinson burying his wife Catherine Peat on the 1st April, 1587. This person was the ancestor of a succession of Thomlinsons in that parish. We do not know, in the absence of registration, how far his ancestors may extend backwards in the same place. The only person of that name—quite an unusual one amongst the various families we have to deal with—to whom it were possible to refer this ancestor is a son of Thomas Thomlinson, mentioned in the *Durham Visitation* of 1575, and therein called, but falsely so, a second son of William Thomlinson of

Gateshead, whom we shall very soon particularly notice as the first undoubted ancestor of Dr. Robert Thomlinson and of all the others who cluster around him. There is no manner of doubt that Thomas Thomlinson was an illegitimate, but distinctly acknowledged, son of William Thomlinson of Gateshead, partner with his father in his extended operations, and received into the best society which Newcastle and Gateshead then afforded. No mention is made in local records, so far as I am aware, of any marriage contracted by this first Thomas. Nor does the Visitation Record of 1575 supply the deficiency. He lived in this neighbourhood at least down to 1579, when he is found witnessing a will. The incorrect Visitation Record in question, and they are all suspected, for people were very careless, gives this Thomas, whose position in life was a very good one, and who seems to have been a man much respected, a son Thomas. Farther than this we know nothing; and if guessing were of any use, we are at liberty to imagine that this Thomas may have migrated to Cumberland. At any rate, Thomas Thomlinson of Dalston parish became the ancestor of a large and respectable progeny. His son Nicholas is found under the shadow of Rose castle, in the parish of Dalston, the residence of the bishops of Carlisle to this day. His house there was called 'Stone Hall in Hauxdall.' He was twice married, and his son Robert, *clericus p[ar]ochialis* of Dalston, records for us, with a delightful and most pardonable vanity, many most interesting particulars.

Amongst these particulars is the advent of an Edward Thomlinson, who transmits to his posterity a certain family distinction. Nicholas Thomlinson of Hawksdale seems to have had two sons and a daughter, before Robert the parish clerk, who delights to mark out his own family and friends in the registers he keeps. The first of these is named John, born November, 1571, and the next is named Edward, born January, 1573. A daughter, Anna, was born April, 1574; then Robert was born in December, 1575. He has added to the record of his own name *clericus p[ar]ochialis, libri scriptor*. Several other children of both sexes are afterwards registered to this Nicholas. Of course, it is only after Robert Thomlinson becomes parish clerk that distinction is given in the register to members of his own family. This happens first on the 14th May, 1598, when we have the lengthened entry, 'Johannes Thomlinson filius Edwardi natus novo die Maii baptizatus

decimo quarto.' After another entry of the same sort there begin similar entries of his own children. On the 21st February, 1615-6, he enters the death of his father, 'Nicholas Thomlinson de Stone Hall, in Hauxdall.' After this date he takes for himself the distinction of *de Gill*, or of the Gill. In 1625, on the 8th May, he goes out of his way to register 'Richardus Thomlinson filius Johannis filii Edwardi de Hauxdall natus octavo die Maii 1625 apud Ecket infra parochiam de Wigton et baptisatus in Ecclesia de Wigton . . . die ejusdem mensis maii.'

This, of course, is the Richard Thomlinson already mentioned as the father of John, William, Robert, and all the other children of the Akehead family. Had we been dependent upon these registers only, the supposition would naturally be that the Edward Thomlinson of Hawksdale was the elder brother of Robert Thomlinson of the Gill, parish clerk of Dalston, and that the registration of a grandson of his, born and baptized at Akehead, in another parish, was made at Dalston in consequence of the officious egotism of the clerk there, who naturally delighted to distinguish his own relatives; and the difficulty is to account for it in any other way, for Edward Thomlinson is not said to be of the Stonehall, but only of Hawksdale. But the family traditions are so positive as to the identity of this Edward with the fourth son of Anthony of Gateshead, that we are either compelled to reject those traditions, or, if we accept them, to assume another Edward coming into the parish from a distance, and a date 1624 is assigned to the purchase of the Cumbrian property of this Edward, the year before this entry at Dalston of the birth of his grandchild at Wigton. We have likewise authority for saying that Stonehall, Hawksdale, was the residence of Thomlinsons for a long time afterwards. Had the Edward, son of Nicholas, lived, and there is no evidence that he did not, he would have been twenty-five years of age at the birth of John Thomlinson in 1598. It is needless to say how suitable this age is for the birth of a first son. There is only one other child recorded of Edward Thomlinson: Annas, who died two months after her birth, which circumstance is detailed with the prolixity of the clerk, commenced in the case of her brother John. But neither of these entries records any place as the residence of the father, Edward, at that time. If Edward, son of Anthony Thomlinson of Gateshead, acquired property in this parish in 1624, which property we have seen ascribed to him

or a namesake in the register of Dalston parish as being situated at Hawksdale, he had been resident in the parish long before, for at least six and twenty years, since his son John was born in 1598; but, as we do not know what property he had, there is not much in this. There is, however, a certain succession of dates which we may here point out. Nicholas Thomlinson of the Stonehall died in 1615. His son Robert is named in the register as *de Gill* in 1616. Edward of Gateshead bought property in 1624; he or another Edward is registered 'of Hauxdall' in 1625, and in 1626 Robert builds himself a new house at the Gill.

It is quite possible that the registered child, Edward, of Nicholas Thomlinson of the Stone Hall in Hawksdale, may have disappeared in the course of nature elsewhere than by burial at Dalston; and it is also possible that Robert Thomlinson, the parish clerk at Dalston, in succeeding to the property of his father Nicholas, to which John and Edward, his elder brothers, had been, according to the theory of their previous demise, the heirs each of them in turn before him, may have found it convenient to sell the family residence at Hawksdale to another Edward, who had come from Gateshead into the parish at an earlier period. He afterwards built for himself another house at the Gill, which still bears his initials, and those of his wife Mabel, on the lintel of the door, with the date 1626. He and his descendants leave behind them a very marked history in the parish, which has been partially explored by Miss Kubar, and published in a paper read by her before the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society.<sup>2</sup> They do not at present concern us further than as we can draw from the record evidence as to the identity of the Edward Thomlinson of whom we are in search.

Miss Kubar has given particular attention to the records of Dalston parish. She affirms that in the time of Robert Thomlinson the oldest registers were copied by him from the paper books, in which they had been previously kept, into new parchment registers, in accordance with the injunction then issued. They are, therefore, up to Robert Thomlinson's time, in his peculiar handwriting. Miss Kubar remarks upon what strikes every observer, namely, the prominence given by Robert Thomlinson to his own family by extended notices and bolder

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Cumb. and Westm. Antiq. and Arch. Soc.*, vol. vii. pp. 156 *et seqq.*



writing. Now, no such prominence is given to the entry of the baptism of Edward, son of Nicholas Thomlinson; but the subsequent entries in the line of Edward are so marked, namely, those of the birth of John his son, and of Richard his grandson, the last belonging entirely to the parish of Wigton. There is a marked partiality of Robert Thomlinson for the line of Edward collateral with his own. If Edward had been his own elder brother, this would have been perfectly intelligible; but then one might have expected that the entry of his baptism, copied by him from the older documents upon the new parchment, would have been so distinguished. Yet his own baptismal entry has only the interpolation of the words *clericus p[ar]ochialis* above and *libri scriptor* underneath, and none of the other children of his father has any such distinction. It is only when we come to the 14th May, 1598, when John Thomlinson, son of Edward, was baptized, that we find the line of Edward so distinguished; and it is only on the 8th May, 1625, when Richard, grandson of Edward and son of this John, comes to the front that we have the title of 'de Hauxdall' given to the child's grandfather, as if to explain the reason for the registration of an event entirely belonging to the next parish.

But we have no evidence to associate Edward Thomlinson 'of Hauxdall,' whoever he was, with the 'Stone Hall' of Nicholas. We do associate him with Hawksdale where the Stone Hall was, the remains of which, Miss Kupa says, were still to be seen in 1883 'below Hawksdale Lodge.' Robert Thomlinson nowhere assumes the title his father had, either of Stone Hall or Hawksdale. He becomes 'of the Gill.' But Hawksdale is a village and township close to Rose castle. The Gill is at some distance and out of sight of the latter. Edward Thomlinson of Hawksdale, therefore, if not the elder brother of Robert the parish clerk, must have owed his distinction in the eyes of the latter to his social position. Mere social position, however, is not so marked out in general in these registers, nor would the advent of a person of the same name in the parish if not claimed as a relative have been likely to have been thus commemorated. There is some colour therefore thrown upon the guess that Thomas Thomlinson, the husband of Catherine Peat and grandfather of Robert the parish clerk, may have been a cousin of Edward Thomlinson, the immigrant from Gateshead, through his father the

natural son of William, and thus would acquire a relationship with the former, distant indeed as we think nowadays, but yet sufficient, along with a certain social distinction in right of property, to give him a preponderating character in the eyes of the parish clerk, and to entitle him to be considered the local chief of the family of which William Thomlinson of Gateshead would thus be the common ancestor.

Let us then return to this William Thomlinson of Gateshead.

He stands out very markedly in local history. First, as acting a subordinate part in the transmission of military stores from Gateshead to Warkworth and Norham, just after the battle of Flodden; then as carrying despatches from the temporal and spiritual chancellor of the day (the offices being combined in the person of William Franklin) to Harbottle castle, a frequent residence of the warden of the Middle Marches; afterwards as the bishop of Durham's park-keeper at Gateshead, and finally as lessee of coal mines in Gateshead and Whickham and general superintendent of all the mining interests of the bishop.

He married, first a daughter of Robert Grey of Hebburn, of whose family nothing seems to be known. This lady was the mother of Anthony Thomlinson, bailiff of Gateshead. William Thomlinson's second wife was a most notable person, Barbara, widow of John Blaxton, and a daughter, as is supposed, of a member of the family of Carr, then probably the most distinguished of any in Newcastle. She ought to be, if she is not, well known to us all, for in her own day she knew everybody worth knowing, and most probably a great many who were not worth knowing. Everybody in Newcastle, worthy or not, I am safe to say, knew her. It is with extreme reluctance that we pass her by with no more than this respectful salutation.

Anthony Thomlinson also married twice. His first wife was Mary Rutherford of Rutchester near Horsley. He afterwards married Catherine Hedworth of Harraton. She had a large family, consisting of four sons and probably six daughters. The eldest son, William, transmitted the line through Robert, and then another William (aged four at the *Visitation* in 1615) in whom the line disappears. But the record has been continued, by the care of Mr. G. W. Tomlinson of Huddersfield, through a brother George, four generations further in the county of Leicester, bringing it down to the early years of last

century. The alliance with the family of Hedworth shows that the Gateshead Thomlinsons were then on a level, in the sense of matrimonial eligibility, with the first families of the county of Durham. The fourth son, Edward, of this marriage is he of whom we have been taking notice as migrating to Cumberland. We shall return to his descendants in the sequel. How far, meanwhile, is it possible to penetrate the obscurity surrounding the family name during the period preceding the advent of this clearly marked ancestor at Gateshead, William Thomlyngson?

Permit me to say here that I do not pretend to attach importance to the enquiry on the mere ground of the single personality of Dr. Robert Thomlinson. Some may perhaps think that the value of his gift to the public of Newcastle is in danger of exaggeration. Although I am not one of those myself, I am conscious that my deep gratitude towards the founder of the Thomlinson library partakes somewhat of that proverbial feature of gratitude which looks forwards as well as backwards; and I think there is a slight hope that the public may some day be induced to restore by subscription what the library has lost by the culpable negligence of its curators during nearly one hundred and thirty years. For we will suppose that during the first twenty years it was not neglected. With such a hope of course the personality of the founder has something to do, but his ancestry very little; and yet there is a certain something about the individual character of Dr. Robert Thomlinson that is not the mere outcome of a professional education, or the produce of a single generation. All character except that which is superinduced by a faith, and perhaps to some extent even that, which I admit to be the supremely important department of character, is an evolved formation, in which the principle of atavism may be traced when the facts obtainable are sufficiently specific.

The coat of arms on the brass at Bromfield church bears such a resemblance to the description of certain arms of Thomlinsons recorded in Dugdale's *Visitation of Yorkshire* of 1665<sup>3</sup> as cannot be fortuitous. We have, for instance, at page 376, with date 13th September, 1665, under Thomlinson of Thorgamby: '*Per pale, vert and argent, three greyhounds in pale courant counterchanged, on a chief or a garb of*

<sup>3</sup> 36 Surtees Society Publications.

*the first surmounted of a sword gules in saltire.*' The words are added: 'It behoveth Captain Thomlinson, being a branch of the Family of Byrdforth, to procure a Certificate from Sr Richard Maleverer, that they are descended from his Family, as they pretend (and as Mr. Thomlinson of Byrdforth did undertake to prove); w<sup>ch</sup> done, he may then beare these Armes of Maleverer thus counterchang'd whereunto he pretends w<sup>th</sup> this Cheife to distinguish himselfe from Thomlinson of Byrdforth.' This captain Thomlinson of Thorganby was named John, and he had been a captain of horse under lord Mansfield, son and heir to the duke of Newcastle, in the service of Charles I. His grandfather in the pedigree was Anthony Thomlinson 'of Burne,' in the county of York, who is declared a descendant of Thomlinson 'of Byrdforth,' in the same county. Thorganby is in the wapentake of Ouse and Derwent, twelve miles from York and eight from Selby. Burn is a small village in the township of the same name, in the parish of Brayton, three or four miles south of Selby.

Referring to the Birdforth wapentake, at page 110 of the same *Visitation*, and under date 'Threske, 23 Aug., a<sup>o</sup> 1665,' we have, under the heading of 'Thomlinson of Byrdforth' the words: 'To expect a certificate from Sr Richard Maliverer, Kn<sup>t</sup> that this gent. is of his family.' The latter of the entries is the earlier in point of date; and it is therefore clear that the herald, meeting with a repetition of the same claim on the part of another family of the name of Thomlinson to be descended from the Mauleverer family, enlarged upon his previous stipulation, and added a distinguishing mark between the two families, namely, the placing on the upper part of the shield, above the greyhounds, a garb *vert* on a chief *or*, surmounted of a sword *gules* in saltire. The last peculiarity, *a sword in saltire*, is found adopted by a descendant, whose coat, as given in Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*, presents a sheaf of corn placed saltire or crosswise with the sword on a chief. But in the Bromfield coat there is no chief, sheaf, or sword. The greyhounds are not even counterchanged, but seem to be *argent* throughout, which may be careless heraldry. They do not correspond with the arms of Thorganby as distinguished from Birdforth in 1665, but they do correspond with those of Birdforth, and, like them, are simply the arms of Mauleverer adopted previous to the earliest ancestor known to us, because they are inscribed in the visitation

record of William Thomlinson of Gateshead in 1575, but there with a chief engrailed *azure*, and this chief is taken in the monumental slab at Whickham, according to Surtees, by Dr. Robert Thomlinson, come from Cumberland, with a slight addition of martlets in pale on the chief.

Odds and ends of information enable us to carry back the name of Thomlinson to a period when family names were being adopted. We have evidence from Thoresby that the old system, still in use in Norway amongst the peasantry, of giving a man his father's Christian name with the addition of the suffix *son* prevailed in the vicinity of Leeds down to a very late date. But we find among the Yorkshire wills proved in March, 1392, a legatee of the name of John Thomlynson, whose bequest consisted of a feather bed and two silver spoons. At such a date as that we are safe to judge that persons of the same name living within a moderate distance of each other were within degrees of consanguinity that could be reckoned up; and we are able to bring most of these hints and circumstances into a focus which lies in the neighbourhood of Knaresborough, not far south of that wilderness which, until a comparatively recent period, in the last century to wit, lay around the site of the modern Harrogate. This was formerly part of the ancient forest of Knaresborough, of which a modern description begins the account from a meadow at the junction of the Crimple beck with the Nidd, called Thomlyn's Ing.

There is another name which bears a curious resemblance to it to be found in one of the recent volumes of the Surtees Society, entitled *Halmota Priorata Dunelmensis*, being a collection of the decisions of the Hallmote or Household Court of the ancient monastery of Durham. In 1366 an injunction of the Court is laid upon a certain William Tomlyngsman to repair a cottage. He was a tenant of the monastery, at Wolviston near Stockton-on-Tees. Then, two years afterwards, the same person is subjected to a petty fine for some breach of the customary regulations. The repetition shows a certain fixity of surname; and the monastic scribes may be trusted for at least so much accuracy as separates this man from the Thomlyngsons that we know of. The fact suggests the enquiry: 'Were there Thomlyngs in those days? Of whom, in this case, was the Thomlyngsman at Wolviston the man?' If there were to be found in Yorkshire or Durham any clear

traces of the existence at that time of such a practice as what in Scotland was then and afterwards called 'man-rent,' we should answer at once that his name means that he or some ancestor had sold himself for a pension to a powerful personage called Thomlyng. It is needless to say we have no historical trace of such a person.

Mr. Robert Ferguson of Carlisle has evidently bestowed some trouble on this name amongst the others which have engaged his critical attention. He has found in very ancient Teutonic records abroad the name of Domlin,<sup>4</sup> as we should call it, but probably pronounced by a German, or at least an Alsatian mouth, very nearly as we pronounce Thomlin or Tomline. In this name he finds a root cognate with that of doom, and pointing to some judicial function, like that of Deemster or Dempster in the Isle of Man. The suggestion militates against the course of our present speculation.

The claim of the Thomlinsons to have belonged to the Mauleverer stock may go for very little. I am told on good authority that I may dismiss it at once. Even the adoption of the chief and garb granted by Dugdale to the Thorganby Thomlinsons, on condition of their producing a certificate from the contemporary head of the Mauleverer family, is no proof that the certificate was ever granted and produced at the herald's college. That institution has condescended, for the sake of fees no doubt, very far at times. I am afraid its actual existence has only been rendered possible by successive derogations from its formerly lofty functions.

The Whitby Thomlinsons, of whom sir Matthew Thomlinson, greatly distinguished under the Commonwealth, and raised by Cromwell to the House of Lords, when he attempted to resuscitate it, was one, the Whitby Thomlinsons presented at Malton on the 28th August, 1665, *sable, a fess between three falcons rising or*. Robson, in his *British Herald*, published at Sunderland, and Burke also, in his *General Armoury*, declare these arms to have been granted in 1590.

The only evidence I have found of any connection whatever of the Thomlinsons with the Mauleverers lies in the declaration of the jurors upon an inquest of 1553 at Pomfret, that a certain Richard Thomlinson held property of Richard Maleverer by a tenure, of the nature of which the jurors were ignorant. This vague statement is made as

<sup>4</sup> The surname 'Dumlin' occurs at South Shields.—*Ed.*

a hint that probably the reversion of that property belonged, as that of other property in Richard Tomlinson's hands actually did, to the other Thomlinson, upon whose estate and succession they were empanelled to enquire. Somewhere, however, connected with this circumstance lies the root of the asserted connection of the two families, and among the published documents of the Mauleverer family there is evidence that in Ouseburn, Yorkshire, where this Richard Thomlinson lived, the Mauleverers had previously obtained manorial rights.

Some one has pointed out that the canonization of Beckett gave to his Christian name, Thomas, an extended vogue, and we find in the genealogies cases of its taking this peculiar form of Thomlyn. In the pedigree, for instance, of Clapham of Beamsley, at page 55 of the Harleian Society's reprint of Flower's *Visitation of Yorkshire* in 1563-4, I find that Thomlyn Clapham, son and heir to John Clapham, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of William Moore of Otterbourne, by Thomasin, daughter and co-heiress of Peter Malevery of Beamsley. I am unable to assign a date to this Thomas, *alias* Thomlyn, as the editor describes him, but he occurs several generations back from the actual Clapham of Flower's day, that is to say, of 1563. The situation of Beamsley, thus indicated as one of the numerous manorial possessions of the Mauleverer family, is on the east side of the Wharfe, nearly opposite Bolton abbey. There is no likelihood whatever of this Thomlyn Clapham being the person through whom a vague idea of succession to the honour of descent from the powerful Mauleverers could have been transmitted to children who took the name of Thomlynson. But it is cited as a case of the use of the name Thomlyn amongst the families in that part of Yorkshire, where we presume the common ancestor of the Thomlinsons made his appearance; and it happens, not unsuitably for our purpose, to connect itself with the very Mauleverers themselves. Quite close to one of the leading baronies of this family, Allerton Mauleverer, just outside the ainsty, we find Thomlinsons in 1507 in possession of certain lands, described in the Pomfret inquisition already referred to. They were apparently very various in character and distribution, and of considerable extent and value, although the sums set against them in money by the jurors seem to us ridiculously small; and they

were held of the abbey of Fountains, of that of St. Mary outside the walls of York, of the demesne attaching to the king's castle of Knaresborough, as well as of the Mauleverer family. William Thomlinson, the principal holder of this wealth, was the grandson of another William, and supposed nephew of the Richard Thomlinson previously mentioned as holding of the Mauleverers. He was the father of Christopher Thomlinson, the king's escheator during short periods of the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. George Thomlinson, believed to be the great-grandson of the escheator, is found at Birdforth, not more than ten or eleven miles, as the crow flies, from Great Ouseburn, in 1625. The Birdforth property came into the family by the marriage of the escheator, Christopher, with the heiress of Birdforth, Ann Maunsell. The name William, although the escheator left a son William, is not afterwards common in any of the families of Thomlinson ; but we find it revived in the person of the lord of the manor of Blencogo, and one of his sons. It is alongside of this Christopher Thomlinson that one would wish to place the Gateshead William Thomlinson were there a tittle of evidence to justify our doing so, in addition to the heraldic evidence implied in the adoption by him of the chief *azure*, worn also by Dr. Thomlinson upon the simple Birdforth coat. There is this to be said in favour of the probability of a Yorkshire origin for William of Gateshead, that many of the contemporary families of distinction in Newcastle and Gateshead are traceable to Yorkshire for their origin; and just as younger sons have subsequently been the making of the British colonial empire in a great degree, so in those days they furnished the intelligence and the capital for the development of the outlying districts of the mother-country. It seems to have been the opportunity afforded by the peculiar situation of Newcastle, both as the king's borough and as exempted by distance from some of the vexatious prohibitions against the export of wools and wool-fells to the Continent, in hopes thereby of fostering the home woollen industry, that brought here representatives of great landowners in the baronies within reach in order to profit by those advantages. We have, for instance, at the period when William Thomlinson flourished at Gateshead, in the earlier quarters of the sixteenth century, a certain Conan Barton of Whenby, who married the heiress of the Dolphanbys of



Gateshead; a great family then, and thus extinguished. The Dolph-anby mansion at Gateshead seems, from the tenor of the will of William Thomlinson's widow, Barbara, to have been inhabited by Anthony Thomlinson, the bailiff; and she leaves an annuity or rent charge of 14s. to Henry Anderson, one of her own relatives, and brother of Anthony Thomlinson's son-in-law, Clement Anderson, which rent charge Conan Barton had given or bequeathed to her, arising out of this property. Whenby lies between Easingwold and Castle Howard, not far from Birdforth.

Thoresby introduces us to Scot Hall, alongside of Potter Newton, close to Leeds, another of the mansions of the Mauleverers. 'This,' he says, 'takes its name from a very ancient family which resided there for many ages. This is the Calverley family, originally called Scot.' The families of Calverley and Mauleverer are found in the genealogies inter-marrying, or marrying sisters or other near relatives, so as to show a sustained intimacy. Thoresby, of course, gives their pedigrees, but in a manner not only unreliable, but manifestly false, as Mr. Longstaffe has pointed out. That of Calverley ends with Walter, son of sir Walter Calverley of Calverley and Esholt, baronet, living in 1712, and Julia, daughter of sir William Blackett, baronet, of Newcastle, which pair were married by the Rev. Dr. Thomlinson, at St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, 7th January, 1706. The bridegroom was the diarist Calverley, and, if this were the proper place, it would be interesting to relate how the marriage was brought about by our doctor, and how Sam. Hemingway of Apperley Bridge, Calverley's factotum, renounced the pleasure of being Dr. Thomlinson's guest on one occasion, and took up his lodgings at the 'Angel' in the Bigg Market, so as to be able to read his letters without the doctor looking over his shoulder.

Against the last name, Walter Calverley, the younger, some one has placed a cross in the copy of Thoresby's *Ducatus* belonging to the reverend doctor. The colour of the cross is very brown. One would like to learn, knowing what we know concerning this Walter Calverley, who put that cross there, and exactly when it was put. For this lad became the man whose portrait by sir Joshua Reynolds is now in the board room of the Royal infirmary, Newcastle; the man who built at his own expence the house behind the cathedral

for the reception of the Thomlinson library, and who endowed that institution with a rent charge designed to be perpetual, and secured on his own estate, for the salary of a librarian. This is the grandee of Wallington, and of what afterwards, within Newcastle, became Anderson place; whose extensive benefactions were the theme of the local panegyrists of one hundred and fifty years ago. How he came to be sir Walter Blackett, baronet, etc., and within a very short distance, which death only is said to have cut too short, of a peerage, is a story that has been often told, but not altogether with the details which I am about to give.

The Calverleys had their ups and downs like others. It was a terrible moment, to us who have the historian's faculty of passing from century to century with a sweep of the pen, it seems but a moment, but it extended in its consequences over a lifetime to the subject of it, when Henry Calverley, a 'brat at nurse,' escaped by that circumstance the frenzy of his father in which all the other children were destroyed, his mother sorely wounded, and himself rendered an object of compassion in all time coming, as recorded in the 'Yorkshire Tragedy,' a dramatic piece once ascribed to Shakespere. Throughout his life, rendered unhappy in his youth by an unscrupulous stepfather, who wielded the power officially as judge of the tyrannical Court of Wards and Liveries, Henry Calverley struggled with adversity and loaded himself with heavy compositions and fines from the authorities under the Parliament, by not only taking the wrong side in the Civil War, but, it is said, by his straightforward scrupulosity in giving a strict account of his property, instead of hedging and shirking as, so they say, he should have done. He married Joyce, daughter of sir Walter Pye, attorney of the same Court of Wards and Liveries, and belonging to a family of some note in Herefordshire. The marriage of Henry's son, Walter, with Frances, daughter and heiress of Henry Thompson of Esholt, seems to have been the turning point of the family fortunes at this time. It is also important to us, as bringing a property in Cumberland into the family, which property takes the Calverleys from time to time into the neighbourhood with which we have become acquainted there, and actually brings the reigning Calverleys as guests into the Thomlinson household at Akehead in the parish of Wigton; and, we

may add likewise, into the Rev. Robert Thomlinson's house in Newcastle.

It is on record, however, that Esholt had previously been a possession of the Calverleys, and by them given with a daughter of the family to the nuns at Esholt.

Esholt is still a mansion of some pretensions; and the Bradford people are fond of showing it as the place which suggested to Charlotte Brontë the idea of placing *Jane Eyre* in a certain predicament in regard to a man who had a mad wife living in concealment in the very house where his children's governess had no idea of her existence. There, up among the complications of the roof they point out to you where certain chambers lie hidden, in which such a circumstance was possible. The original Henry Thompson was one of the men-at-arms of Henry VIII. at the field of the Cloth of Gold. The king sold him the *Maison Dieu* at Dover when the monasteries were suppressed. Afterwards the king wanted it back, and in the first year of Edward VI. the *Maison Dieu* at Dover was restored to the Crown in exchange for the manor, rectory, and church at Bromfield, together with the seat and demesnes of the priory of Esholt in Yorkshire, Thompson paying an additional sum of money to conclude the bargain. The connection between these distant properties seems to have been that they had both belonged to the monastery of the Blessed Mary, just outside the walls of York. At any rate, the church at Bromfield had. Of course, in regard to what was left for the church at that place, Thompson and Thompson's heirs became the patrons.

Thus it comes about that in the diary of Walter Calverley, published by the Surtees Society,<sup>5</sup> we have frequent notices of visits on the part of this gentleman, the grandson of Henry Calverley and Joyce Pye, whose portraits are at Wallington, to his Cumberland property; and thus it is, as we have before noticed, that thirteen yards of the churchyard wall at Bromfield abut upon the property of Mr. Calverley, very likely at that part where the vicarage now stands. But the manor of Bromfield itself was his.

Walter Calverley, the diarist, was admitted on the 22nd May, 1688, a gentleman commoner of Queen's college, Oxford. At this time Robert Thomlinson had already been more than two years a

<sup>5</sup> 65 Surtees Society Publications.

member of the same college. In August of the next year, 1689, Calverley, his friend Thomas Ramsden, who had matriculated at Queen's the day before himself, and who afterwards married Calverley's sister, and Mr. Thomlinson, then only twenty years of age, set out together on a trip to London, where they stayed a month, returning together on the 7th September, and reaching Eshall, as they call it, in three days from London. There is now in the British museum a pass granted in the year 1688 by the vice-chancellor of Oxford to Calverley and Ramsden for their return journey from Oxford to Ashould; such variety there was in the spelling of names, and such clumsiness also in the pronunciation of gentlemen born. Ramsden went home from Esholt on the latter occasion, that is, after the London visit; but Calverley and Thomlinson, after staying a fortnight at Esholt, set out together for Cumberland. They got to Akehead in four days.

This place, now Akehead, but often called *more boreali* Aiket, is about a mile from the little town of Wigton. It is on the road from Carlisle to Bromfield, which is about five miles farther on. It now consists of two or three houses of no particular note. But Richard Thomlinson, the father of John, already ten years rector of Rothbury, of William, lord of the manor of Blencogo, of Robert the benefactor, and all the other children of the family of ten, lived there then, and had been born there, as we have seen. After about a month's stay in this place, Calverley set out 28th October, 1689, with William, on a tour 'through Carlisle to Howtwistell, and so on to Newcastle; from thence to Whitton Toure' (that is to say, to the parsonage at Rothbury), 'and so on to Berwick, Hedington, Edinburgh; on the fifth [Nov.] to Broughton, 6th Loceby, 7th Akehead, 10th Penrith, 11th Kirby Lonsdale, 12th Long Preston, and so home.' These were stirring times, as we read about them in Macaulay (whose sister, by the way, married the successor to the Calverley estates at Wallington); but although Killiecrankie was fought in that year there is no notice of such events in Walter's diary. It was, besides, a time of peculiarly intense preoccupation as regards Ireland. But these gentlefolks with rural interests seem quite at their ease. Their preoccupations were bucolical, and there are curious particulars of how in defiance of law, under the name of goods, lean cattle were smuggled over from Ireland to be purchased about the Solway and afterwards

fattened upon the rich Yorkshire pastures. The diary does not give us a hint at this time, however, of what they were thinking about. Robert Thomlinson was only just of age, and his friend Calverley barely nineteen years of age. Besides the diary was probably written up from memory at a later date. A journey into Scotland was possibly a more formidable affair than a mere progress to and from Oxford, and William Thomlinson, eleven years older than Robert, was the fitter companion on the road. William Thomlinson seems to have returned with Calverley into Yorkshire, and as he is mentioned in the diary as setting out from Esholt in June, 1690, along with the elder Calverley, the inference is that he remained at Esholt during the intermediate period, that is to say, from November to June. We have no record of the date of his marriage, nor has any information been discovered to show who his wife was. But his marriage must have taken place at a period not very long subsequent to this, as the eldest child, John, afterwards rector of Glenfield in Leicestershire, was baptized at Bromfield, on the 7th December, 1692. The inference follows that about the period of this long visit of William Thomlinson to Esholt, his marriage must have been arranged, and the mansion house of Blencogo prepared for his residence. A settlement of jointure was made for his wife on the property at Akehead, which was, perhaps, natural on the part of his father, if it had been partly through the family of the lady that arrangements had been made for the acquisition of manorial rights at Blencogo. As the diary is perfectly silent on this matter, it is clear that the lady did not belong to the Calverley family.

A statement is made in the Lysons' *Magna Britannia*, vol. iv. p. 47, to the effect that the Thomlinsons purchased Blencogo about the end of the seventeenth century. Nicolson and Burn vaguely assign even a later date.

Walter Calverley, the father of the diarist, died 10th November, 1691. His will constitutes Richard Thomlinson the elder of Akehead, in the county of Cumberland, gentleman, and John Thomlinson his son, called clerk of Akehead, together with certain executors afterwards named, trustees of his estate, granting them power to sell the Cumberland property to pay his debts. There is a legacy to each of them of £20 for their trouble. They appear to have sold these estates; or at least Walter, the son and heir, did. We have a

variety of detail connected with that matter from the pen of sir Walter Trevelyan in the *Archæologia Aeliana*, vol. ii., p. 172 *et seqq.*, as well as in Calverley's diary.

It is noticeable here, however, that the diarist declares, under date 10th September, 1694, after large portions of the Bromfield property had been alienated, that parson Thomlinson had offered him, when he was in Cumberland, £1,600 for all his estate there. The offer was not accepted, and Calverley, by dividing his remaining interest into two lots, afterwards obtained a little more money. The circumstance is of great interest in connection with the biography of Robert Thomlinson. His ordination had taken place two or three years before, but under what title has never been shown. The entry in Calverley's diary, from which we learn that Richard Thomlinson the father, was alive in 1695, records that Robert was eighteen days at Esholt in January of that year; that he bought a spotted gelding of his host, and had his own 'little prancing mare' sent back to his father at Akehead. The 'little prancing mare' was evidently less suitable than Calverley's spotted gelding as a roadster for the journey into Somersetshire, which parson Thomlinson was then undertaking. I wish I knew what the latter had to do in Somerset. The Calverleys had connections there, as is evident from the ultimate issues of the Northumbrian properties, when the male lines, both of Blacketts and Calverleys, had failed. But Thomlinson was then vice-principal of Edmund's hall, and had been so since 1692. If he ever did actually serve a curacy, as one presumes nowadays to have been necessary, it could only have been for a very short time, and as an indispensable step towards preferment. I am not in possession of the exact dates, but his ordination took place in 1691 or 1692. His degree of Master of Arts as well as his appointment to Edmund's took place in the latter year; and then, before September, 1694, we find him making offers for the Bromfield estate of his friend Calverley. He himself long afterwards declares that, as the youngest of ten children, God's providence, as he expresses it, was his heritage. It is plain enough from the circumstances that God's providence took, at a very early period in Robert Thomlinson's life, a very prudent and thrifty character, and that the family credit enabled him to anticipate the addition to his own modest savings of a very round sum from other sources for

the purchase of a property of which he knew exactly the value. His brother John, rector of Rothbury, no doubt went for something in all this. The two clergymen clung together amongst the brothers, and possibly Richard, a brother in London, perhaps having an office in Newcastle, of whom we do not know very much, but to whom his brother John, at his death in 1720, left £1,000 which he did not need but allowed his nephews in Newcastle to make use of, had already fallen on his feet. Anyhow, the offer of £1,600 for Calverley's manor of Bromfield is seriously recorded in his diary by the latter. Soon after this, in 1695, Robert was appointed to the afternoon lectureship at St. Nicholas's, Newcastle; and this appointment, it is needless to say, gave the direction to his after-life. His marriage with Martha Ray took place at East Ardsley on the 8th of April, 1702; and this locality, about five miles south of Leeds, again directs our attention to the Calverleys. The marriage seems to spring indirectly from the intimate connection which had long existed between the two families; but in the parish of West Ardsley, or Woodkirk, closely adjoining East Ardsley, there were at that time many Thomlinsons.

It will be remembered that we are indebted for some of our information to the parish clerk of Dalston in the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century—Robert Thomlinson of the Gill, son of Nicholas of the Stone Hall in Hawksdale, who died on the 1st February, 1616. The ancestor of our Thomlinsons, Edward, the supposed fourth son of Anthony Thomlinson of Gateshead, becomes a proprietor at Hawksdale, according to Mr. Adamson,<sup>6</sup> in 1624, the year before we find his name registered as the father of John, and grandfather of Richard, then born. This John was born on the 9th day of May and baptized on the 14th day of the same month in 1598. At least such a John, son of Edward, distinguished with detail and large lettering, but without any local specific designation, is registered at that time, eighteen years before the death of Nicholas, the proprietor of the Stone Hall. According to Miss Kubar, Thomlinsons occupied the Stone Hall long afterwards. But although becoming a proprietor in Hawksdale, we are not sure that Edward dwelt at the Stone Hall there. If we are right in assuming that the Edward of

<sup>6</sup> *Arch. Ael.*, vol. x. pp. 80-87.

Hawksdale in 1625, father of John and grandfather of Richard, is the same as the Edward, father of John in 1598, he must have lived a long time in Dalston parish before the date assigned by Mr. Adamson for the purchase of property in Cumberland, namely, 1624. The matter is of some moment as concerns the identity of John Thomlinson, grandfather of our Dr. Robert. A certain John Thomlinson obtains particular notice in the records of the city of Carlisle at a time when the John Thomlinson, intermediate between Edward of Hawksdale and Richard of Akehead, must have lived. He enters the merchants' company in 1632, becomes its clerk in 1655, and mayor in 1666-7. We find him also among the *capitales cives*, or leading citizens at the siege of Carlisle in 1645, when he is associated with the others who advanced £400 for the subsistence of the royalist garrison. He also brings a silver cup of eight ounces weight to be coined into money then sorely wanted. Some person of this sort is suggested by the records of the family as desirable to account for the acquisition of property at Akehead, and the subsequent social distinction of that branch. We have taken the liberty to assume a diversity of Edwards at Hawksdale in order to conform to the statement that Edward the great-grandfather of Dr. Thomlinson was a son of Anthony Thomlinson of Gateshead. It is not going too far, perhaps, if we presume on the identity of two John Thomlinsons mentioned in different records, who, if not identical, were certainly contemporaneous. One of them, the mayor of Carlisle, seems to have left no traces behind him of his commercial successes beyond an eight ounce silver cup, and even that went to the melting pot, if he were not the person who acquired property and left a family in independent circumstances at Akehead; but this gentleman may be further assumed as the person who laid the basis of that connection with the dean and chapter or the bishop of Carlisle, or both, which resulted in the preferment of John Thomlinson from the poor vicarage of Bromfield to the rich living of Rothbury, as well as the nomination of Robert Thomlinson to the lectureship under the vicarage of Newcastle, then likewise a portion of their patronage, although the salary was paid from the funds of the municipal corporation.